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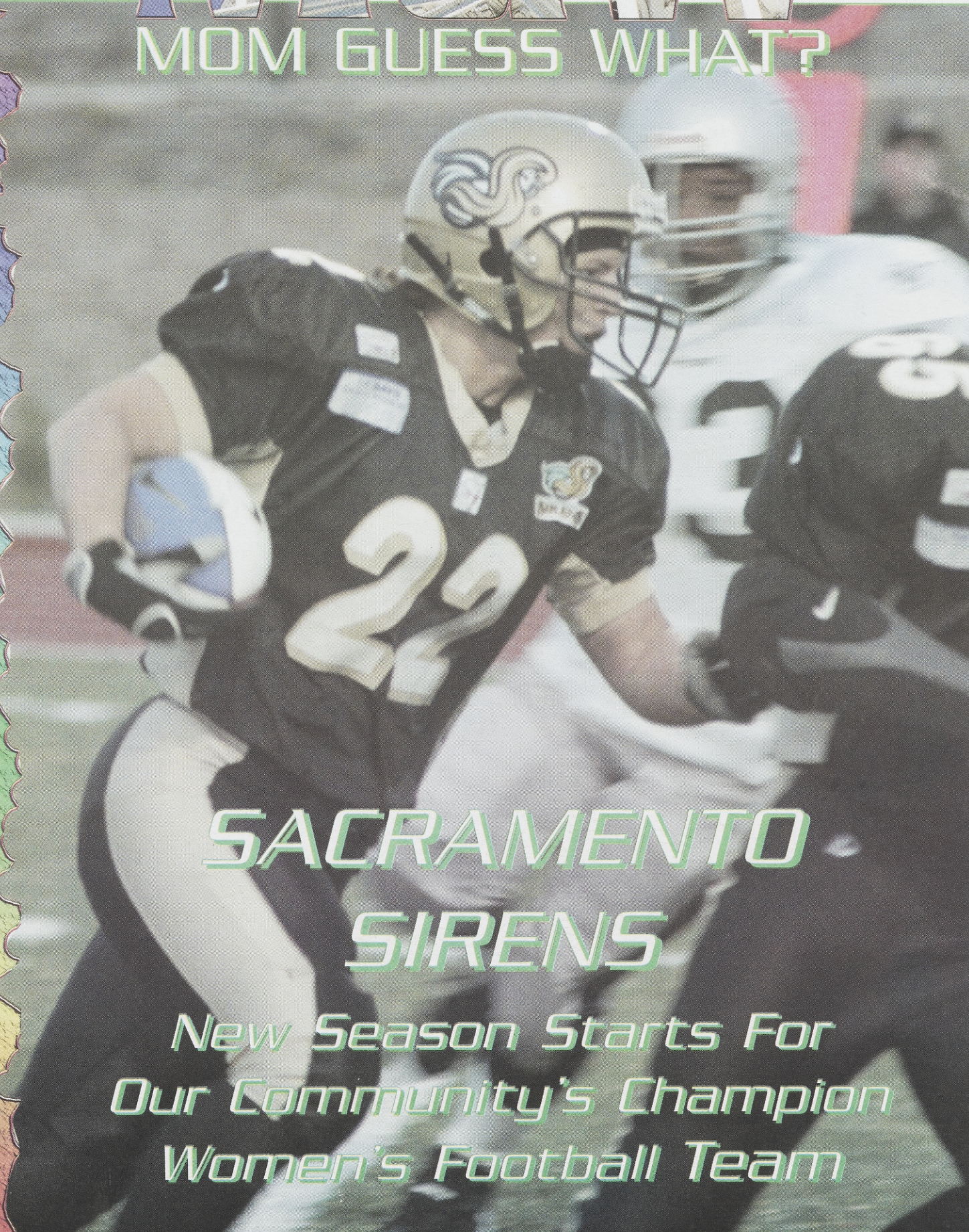
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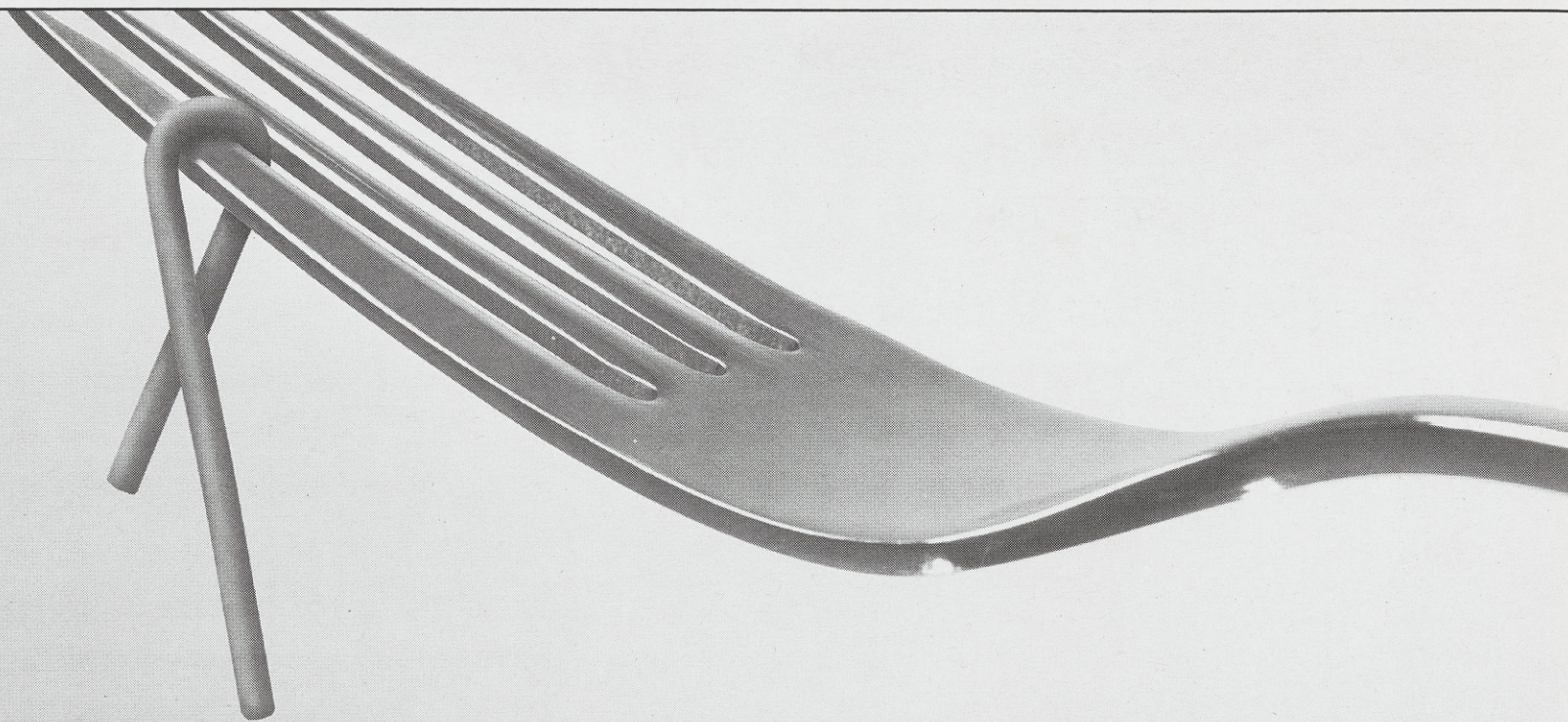
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Passing of a Community Icon

MARK SIMPSON

I have the unfortunate task of letting everyone know about the passing of a good friend and spirited soul here in the Sacramento Community.

Mark Simpson, known to us all as DJ MarkieMark from Bo Jangles / FACES and the Executive Director of the Rainbow Festival Fund passed away yesterday in his sleep. This was a complete shock to all of us who knew and worked with Mark ... in fact I was with him Sunday evening as he worked the Downtown Divas show as DJ in the video bar at FACES. This loss has been a serious body-blow to many of us. We all need to take our own time in our own ways to reflect on the wonderful human being that was Mark. God speed in your journeys, my friend.

MIKE JOHNSTON

CGNIE- FACES - CLUB 21 - ET. AL.

This is really a sad time. When Sacramento Valley Veterans decided to do their first fund raiser, Hal recommended DJ Markie Mark. he showed up an hour before the show and jumped right in and did his thing. Time went by and I realized how great of a person and DJ he really was. Every time I heard his music I wanted to dance, he had a way of getting into my soul through his music.

During the Rainbow Awards it was Markie Mark that gave my partner Paul Curtis the name Mrs Ray and that name is still being used today. During the last Canteen show again at the last minute he jumped right in and knew just what to do. I do say we are going to miss that man. It's rare in this life that you run in to some one and kind as Mark. He was one of the best and true people that you can ever know. I find myself lucky to have known him and I send out mine and Sacramento Valley Veterans deepest condolence to his partner and his family. Mark will be missed but not forgotten.

RAYMOND ALLEN

SACRAMENTO VALLEY VETERANS

As I write this, I am still in shock over the loss of one of Sacramento's true "good guys" Mark and I have worked closely together for the last several years on the Rainbow Festival and you really get to know the character of someone when you are under pressure. He had recently taken over the reigns as Executive Director of the Rainbow Festival and I knew that it would probably be the best one to date.

He always thought outside the box and never said no. I always asked him how he did it and with his usual humility refused to take credit for the grueling pace and days and weeks of no sleep. He loved this community. He gave his all with dignity and always followed through. And in turn, the community loved him. He will be missed in more ways than are calculable at this time. Prayers go out to his partner Mark.

The world is a better place because we had Mark Simpson as a part of our lives. May you now find peace and know that you were loved.

GAYIEL VON

COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND FRIEND

It is with profound sadness that we accept and handle the process that goes along with this tragic loss of one of our family. We all loved MarkieMark. I have no words adequate to describe the magnitude of the loss both the FACES family and our Community as a whole is going through right now. I counted on Mark for so many things and he always gave me his all. Goodbye dear friend ... we miss you more than you could ever know.

TERRY SIDIE

FACES - CLUB 21 - LAMBDA - CGNIE

I want to share my heartfelt sorrow at the news of Mark Simpson passing. He was always there with a positive attitude, great advice, an offer to help. Mark will be missed by so many in Sacramento

TINA REYNOLDS



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A REMINDER: If you have an issue with the Sacramento Police Department, there is a group of SPD officers and civilians that volunteer to help facilitate better communications between the GLBT community and the SPD. Please call them with your concerns.

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Being In Total Control of Himself

By
MATTHEW
BURLINGAME
MGW EDITOR



Being in theatre, one quickly learns that there is often more drama behind the stage than on it. After all, for three months during rehearsals and production, a multitude of personalities, egos, libidos, and attitudes are brought together and stuffed into a 16x11x10 box and told they have to like each other. The end result is strong friendships, new relationships, bitter rivalries, and general irritation at the very

sound of another actor's voice. And that's just backstage.

I have a unique perspective because I am most often playing the role of director these days. All those daydreams in school about one day directing my own shows were nothing like this.

Aspiring directors dream of perfect casts who all bond quickly, live for character development and plot examination and of course, all worship him/her like they are a demigod. If you are one of these aspiring actors—POP!—I'm bursting your bubble.

What you more than likely end up with is 5 weeks to pull together a group of attitude queens, acting-is-just-my-hobbyists, and

the newbies who have never even walked on a stage before. And somehow on a \$150 budget, you have to turn this into a production that will make enough money to pay the bills. This is why theatre sponsorship is so important...it makes directors a little less nervous.

Madonna—yes, I am a Madonna fan, get over it—Madonna said it best in the movie *Truth or Dare* when she said that on each tour, the dancers she works with are like her children. the same can be said of directing a theatre production. As the authority figure (oi!) I have to walk the thin line of parenthood. I constantly have to bounce between nice dad who is supportive to mean dad who is one step away from getting out the belt, to

nice mom who they can emotionally relate to and nagging mom who is kind of like Roseanne Barr-Arnold-Whatever on the rag.

So for three months I play parent to a group of adult children, trying to draw them out and build their confidence, while keeping them from jumping on furniture.

Then comes the moment, which for me is always in tech week (for non-theatre people who don't know what tech week is, just envision Hell with costumes and inventive lighting) where mean daddy has to tell all the children how disappointed he is in what he saw that night. And he has to send all the naughty, as well as the nice, children home to think about what they've done. This is when the director—that would be me—gets called...you

guessed it...a bitch. I spend months making sure that my children are living up to their full potential, that the world—well, Sacramento audiences—will fall in love with them, and I get called a bitch. And do I cry?

Do I have an emotional meltdown? Please, I've been called worse by better. And I don't stop loving them all and pushing them to be their best because of it.

But it makes me stop and think about when my mother pushed me to try harder and to do better when I was young. And how much I resisted and, yes, there were times, the B-word came out of my teenage mouth as well. So now that I have children, I understand and can honestly say, "Sorry, Mom" and "Thank you, Mom." ▼

DEAR EDITOR:

On the Sunday morning immediately following the death of Pope John Paul I was watching the regular call-in show broadcast internationally by C-SPAN. Many people called in from around the world to praise the life and accomplishments of the Pope. Judging from the comments, the Pope apparently left a positive, value-oriented legacy for people of all political stripes.

Then suddenly a man called and identified himself as a "gay person". He spoke in a hideously hateful effeminate tone, stating that the Pope opposed gay marriage and that "He should burn in hell".

I was immediately repulsed and sickened by the gay man's diatribe; yet these sort of vile statements are not uncommon among many left-wing gay activists. When I witness this sort of gay hate I think of Adolph Hitler who also was a hate-filled homosexual according to American intelligence and editorial cartoonists in European capitals who routinely mocked Hitler's obvious tyrannical effeminacy.

(Go to Barnes & Noble and check out the book, *The Hidden Hitler*).

Yet when I think further of the C-SPAN caller I am amazed at how reckless his contempt was. While the Pope did not support gay marriage he was nothing but compassionate toward gay people, particularly those living with

HIV and AIDS. In fact, if there is one area where John Paul the Great is criticized it is in his barely audible criticism of priests who sexually molested children and caused the Catholic Church billions in law suits.

This hatred for the Pope reminds me of many left-wing gay activists who blamed Ronald Reagan for AIDS. Reagan did nothing and said nothing about AIDS so go the charges. But that is a malicious lie told by a generation of gay activists.

In the early 1980's health officials from the National Institute of Health (part of Reagan's government at the time) fanned out across the nation to visit gay people in gay community centers. They gently warned gay people about the transmission of the HIV virus. Yet the gay community did not want to listen to a right wing government tell them that their lifestyle was killing them. Consequently, most gays stayed in denial a few more years until enough gay people died, creating a large national gay movement to mobilize to extend people's lives.

As in any epidemic, gay or straight, it always takes time for society and the scientific community to mobilize. But mobilize it did, and society proved to be much more compassionate than the paranoid gay AIDS activists ever imagined, for not all Republicans were moralists who said that gays were getting what they deserved -- not all moralists think alike either -- and many Republicans are libertarians. Many objective gays sensed this when Reagan was re-elected in 1984 and his Vice-President,

George Herbert Walker Bush, was elected President in 1988, both with over 40 percent of the gay vote.

In fact, The Reagan Administration sent out the most sexually explicit, taxpayer funded, manual to over 100 million households to educate Americans about safe sex.

Reagan never hated gays; he was a compassionate man. But so many gays were and still are so blinded by hate that they took all the credit for America turning toward safe sex practices and deceitfully blamed Reagan for the death of hundreds of thousands of gay people.

In later years I would hear many bitter gay people casually say that Reagan deserved to die of Alzheimer's; they sounded just like that gay man condemning the Pope to hell on C-SPAN.

Such vitriol is totally counterproductive for the gay movement. Rather than gather inspiration from John Paul and Reagan for liberating much of the world, which would certainly include millions of gay people, these bitter anti-social gays choose hate to define themselves and their community.

By: MATTHEW VERITAS TSIENT
VICE-PRESIDENT - MEMBERSHIP
FLORIDA GOLD COAST LOG CABIN
REPUBLICANS

Mr. Tsien served as Director of President Ronald Reagan's lobbying organization during the 40th. President's second term.

DEAR EDITOR:

The public is invited to two opinion-gathering forums hosted by the HIV Health Services Planning Council.

The first, on Monday May 2, is designed to gather community input, as well as hear debate, on proposed legislation that would have the State of California adopt a names-based HIV reporting system (versus the current code-based birthday/social security number system). There are strong feelings on both sides of this issue, and the Planning Council committees feel it is important to know the public's opinion on this issue. Legislative staff members have also been invited, as well as others who are involved in the issue.

The second forum, on Monday May 16, is one of a series of

quarterly meetings. This one will focus on obtaining community opinions on which HIV health and supportive services are most important, and where more money is needed. This will be particularly helpful to the Council, as Sacramento recently had a 6 percent funding cut in Ryan White funds by the federal government.

The May 2 forum is scheduled for late afternoon; the May 16 forum is scheduled for early evening. Please call William Barrett at 447-7063, x-311, Mon-Fri, for specific times and locations if interested. Remember: your opinion is important!

WILLIAM BARRETT
SENIOR PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING
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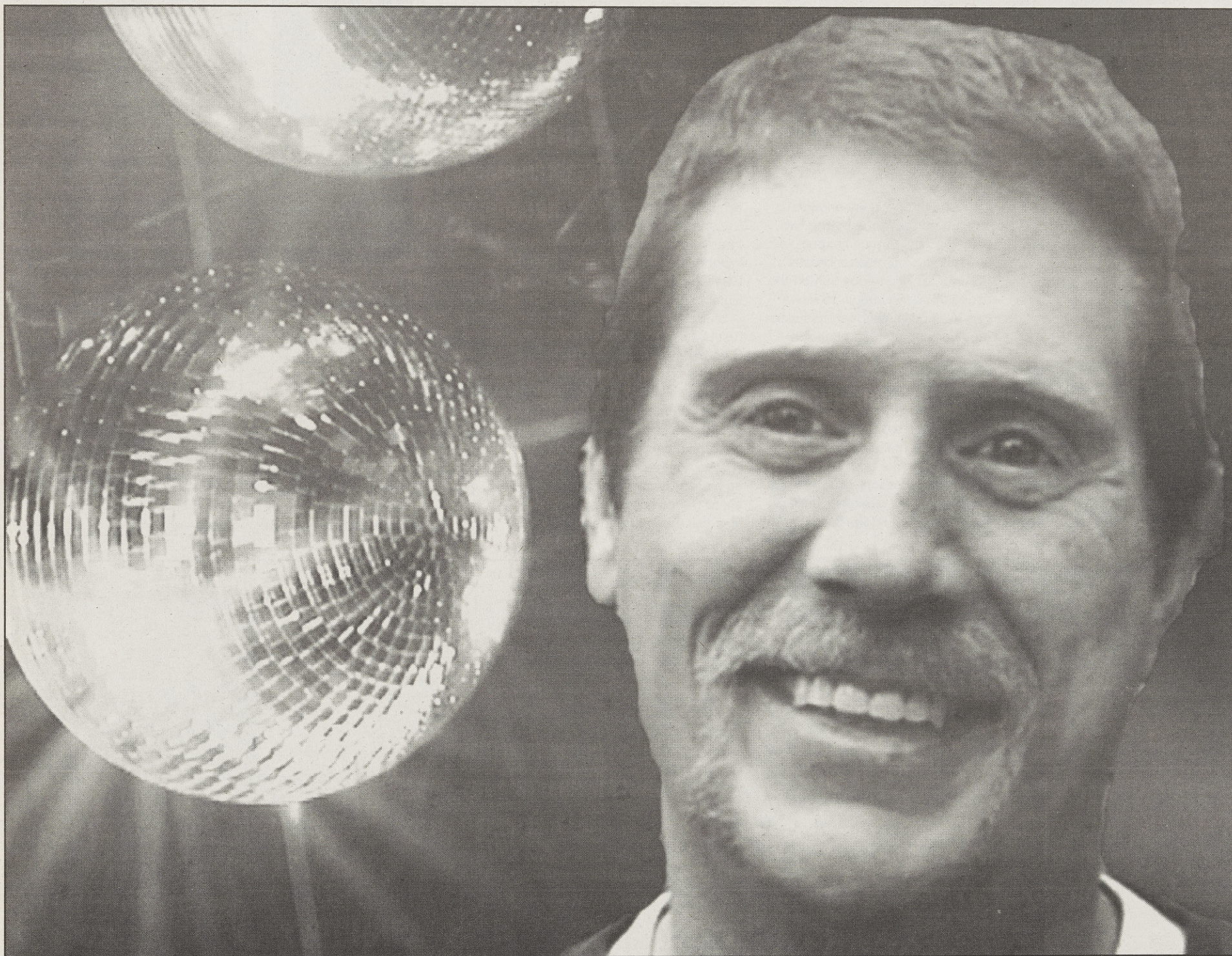
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BY
RICKY DIAZ
ANAYA
MGW STAFF



One-of-a-kind describes the Sacramento Dancesport Project. Instructors Kilee Cooper and Camille Wojtasiak founded Sacramento Dancesport in 2001. It is one of the few organizations in the United States to provide a full curriculum of dance instruction for same sex dancers. Camille met Kilee, an instructor, when she requested learning to lead in a primarily heterosexual dance school. Now they are good friends, competitive dance partners, and run the Dancesport Project together.

What once started out as a hobby in teaching family and friends, soon blossomed into a successful niche business. Today, between classes and private instruction there are over 80 students. Jaime (Kilee's sister) and TeRaei also help teach. Some dances include the Waltz, Quickstep, West Coast Swing, Fox Trot, Viennese Waltz and a full array of Latin styles too; Rumba, Cha-Cha, Salsa, Tango, and Paso Doble.

If you weren't lucky enough to catch a performance by the two, when you do, you can expect to see nothing less than a breath-taking feat. Taking position on the dance floor, they begin to move to a Waltz or Latin beat. It is clear the audience stares in anticipation and awe. Their dancers bodies work their way gracefully around the dance floor in a passionate story like tale. The dancers suggest: desire, lust, betrayal, and provocation.



Their most recent show was "Everything Dances" on March 26th. This event showcased performances by the instructors, students, a number by the East Bay Women's Cha-Cha group, and Special Guest performances by top same sex dancers Petra Zimmermann and Caroline Privou from Koln, Germany and Boris Ostrowski and Frank Roepke from Berlin, Germany.

In 2004 Camille and Kilee placed as high as third place in same sex dancing in International Latin Style in Berlin, Germany. This year Sacramento can be proud as they placed first in London this past February in International Latin style which includes dances such as Samba, Cha-Cha, Paso Doble, Jive, and Rumba.

Students take dance classes (usually held at Faces in Sacramento) for a variety of reasons;

"Imagine yourself in a place where you meet strangers and now those strangers have become a part of your everyday life. You gather twice a week for an hour or two of dancing and share the celebration of life. I now call these strangers dear

friends."

Jonesy, student. "I wanted to get out of the house and learn how to dance. I'm not a very good dancer but after a while, I was actually amazed as I picked up the steps." Student

In the Introduction to Social Dance class, students can expect to learn the basics for Cha-Cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step. Of particular interest to the LGBT community, same sex dance is a place for all to feel safe in learning with others whether you come alone or with a partner. ▼

You can contact the Sacramento Dancesport Project at www.sac-dancesport.com, email; Sacdancesport@aol.com



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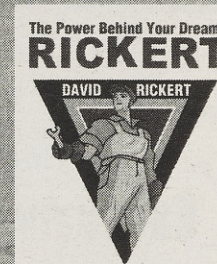
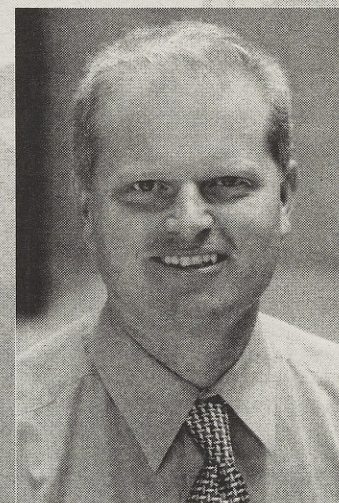
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BY ED KELLEY/MGW STAFF

Margie Wells
Football Player
Sacramento

Yes, I have been to and played in every single game. I play left guard and have been with the sirens since day one. See you at the games!

Denise Gutierrez
Student
Sacramento

No, I have never been to a their games. I hear about them all the time, but I don't know where they play.

(Foothill High off Madison Ave.)

Donna Defreitas
Medical Field
Sacramento

No, Never been to a game because I could never figure out where or when the games were.

(See ad on Sports Page)

Angelina Lema
Student
Sacramento

Yes, I have been to their games and had a really good time. Women's football really inspires me to get out there and do things that women can't do.

Dean Lambda
Student
Sacramento

No, I've never been to a game. I've never heard of them, but I think that's really cool that Sacramento has a women's football team!

Do you have a question for speak out? Email it to us at MGWeditor@mgwnews.com

Community Profile: David Rivera Jr.

BY PHILLIP
SAMANIEGO
MGW/STAFF

Growing up in a family that never dared talk about sex, terms like "family planning", "abortion", and "sexually transmitted disease" never crossed the mind of David Rivera Jr. This young boy from San Jose, Calif. never knew of diseases, such as HIV, that plague our world or even the struggles of teenage pregnancy. That was until at the age of 23 when he found himself dealing face to face with all these situations on a daily basis.

Rivera is the front office receptionist and clinic safety coordinator at Planned Parenthood Mar Monte located in Midtown Sacramento.

Along with a full time job at the clinic, Rivera also attends a health education class at American River College and plans to enter a medical assisting program in the summer. He hopes to one day become a nurse practitioner.

Rivera's interest in health care started when he was employed by Planned Parenthood and noticed the need for a change in the sexual health of today's youth. He had seen too many lives ruined by STDs and unwanted pregnancies that he knew he had to do something about it or stand by and watch helplessly. But Rivera is far from helpless. "When you work at a medical clinic and everything, you see a lot of things you don't want to catch," Rivera explains. "The majority of promiscuity and the tragic consequences of that happen to gay people; gay youth, gay homeless people."

Rivera feels that the key to prevention of unwanted pregnancy and STDs is education. Condoms need to be readily available to our youth. High schools need to have sexual health classes to educate our children because like his family, most parents don't discuss with their kids the dangers and risks of unprotected sex.

Rivera is hoping to start a support group to educate gay and lesbian youths, age 14 to 23, and provide an abundance of resources to help them seek health services such as STD test-

"PEOPLE NEED DIRECTION AND EDUCATION," RIVERA SAYS, "I WANT TO EDUCATE PEOPLE."

ing and treatment. He wants it to be a place where these teens and young adults can sit around and talk amongst their peers about the everyday pressures of life and maybe help each other out in the process. He also hopes to gain the support of Lambda for his plans to educate the gay youth in our community and to create an organization similar to Lambda.

"People need direction and education," Rivera says, "I want to educate people."

Rivera wants to be the role model or the big brother to these kids who weren't fortunate enough to have someone they could talk to, someone to give them that much needed direction.

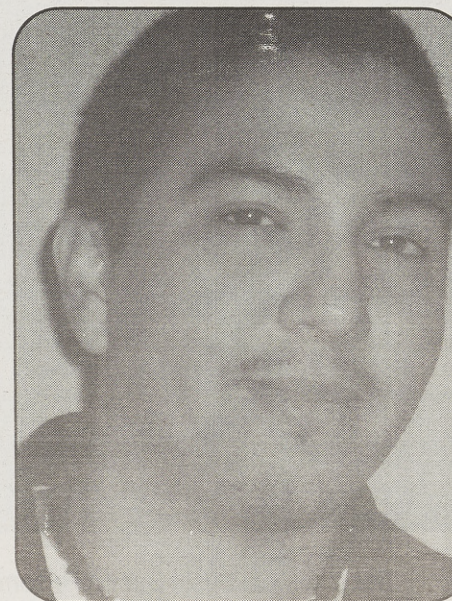
And if that isn't enough, Rivera is also working on a book consisting of six short stories based on life and the different views people have on subjects ranging from homosexuality to being a Latino in today's society.

"One of the reasons why I am trying to write this book is to tell people to open up your eyes to what's around you," Rivera explains. "The world can be a naive place sometimes, you know?" Although he is aware that he

may encounter many setbacks and obstacles, Rivera's motivation to accomplish all these plans

comes from looking at society and what is wrong with it. There isn't enough education to make our society free of these problems and he is using that as his main drive in life. "As long as society is all messed up, I'm going to

have a job," Rivera says with a slight chuckle. "And I am going to get to do what I want to do and help other people." ▼



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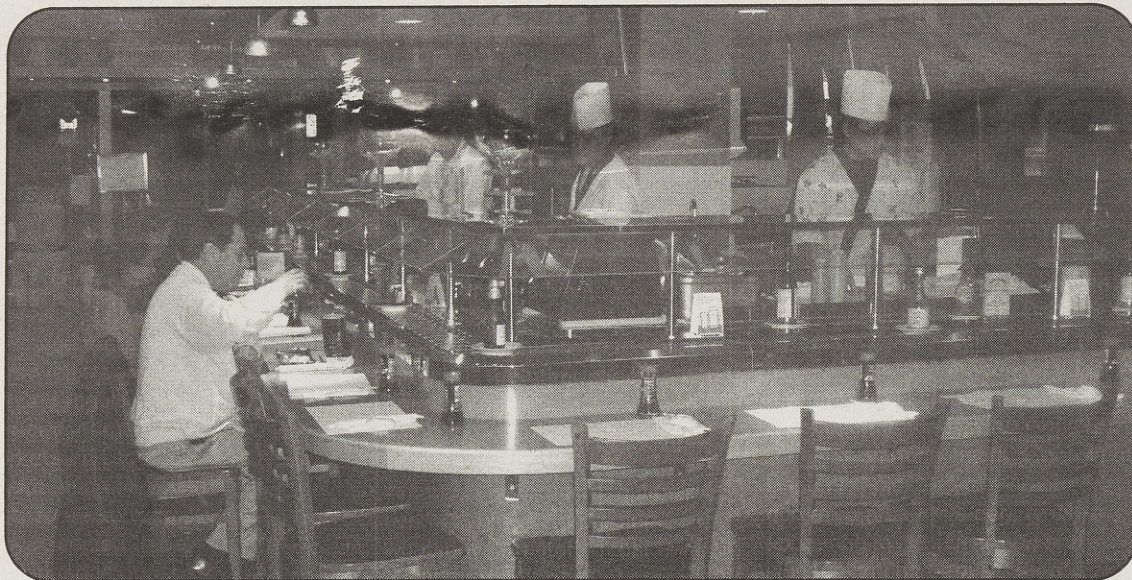
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Eastern Cuisine Sparks Mixed Results

By KATRINA TORRES/MGW STAFF



The Ichi Maki Sushi Bar on Folsom Blvd, in Rancho Cordova

NUMBER ONE ROLL

They say no one ever forgets their "number one roll," or is it their number one love? Well, if you've forgotten yours, it's time to have another, and I'll tell you right where to get it. Ichi maki translates to "number one roll" in Japanese, and they've definitely earned the name. I've been hearing about the place for a while now, but I didn't try it until my life coach, Mary Jo, decided that we should go there for our lunch meeting. A wise person always does what her coach suggests, and now I understand why. If Mary Jo's guidance on life choices is as insightful as her guidance on restaurant choices is, I've got it made! I'll be passionately in love, rich, famous, adored the world over and thin within a year tops! And even if I'm not, discovering ichi maki makes up for it.

I love Japanese food. I love it because of the crisp, clean colors, the purity, the undisguised flavors, the simple but exacting cooking techniques, and the fact that such a delicious cuisine can be so healthy and satisfying at the same time. Good Japanese food is an art form, and the plate is a palate. Sometimes the food looks so beautifully prepared and presented, that one is reluctant to violate the canvas by consuming it. While much of the world's diverse cuisines tend to specialize in taking foodstuffs and making them taste like something else altogether (sauerkraut, sala-

mi and dill pickles come to mind) Japanese food celebrates food's natural flavors, with techniques that enhance instead of disguising the taste, and artful presentations that elevate the dining experience to the level of a edible art show.

Now I don't want to give Mary Jo so much credit that I only end up embarrassing her, so I will just say that her level of genius is most likely genetically based, since it was her brothers recommendation that sent us there. However, I give her credit for listening to him. Wise woman. And I give myself credit for listening to her. Again, wise woman. And I will give you credit for...well, you get my drift. Just go.

The place was clean and classy, with long, elegant lines that made the room flow from one end to the other like a Mondrian brushstroke. Across from the sushi bar there lay a beautiful and tempting display of the day's lunch specials arrayed on a viewing table, all works of art in themselves. The crowd was mostly business folk, with a few take-out customers, and about a 10-minute wait for a table. A subsequent 5:30 pm dinner visit brought in a wider variety of folks, and no wait, although I'm guessing it will be different on the weekend. Although the place was busy, they have plenty of seating, and a seat here is worth waiting for.

Our lunch was excellent, starting with a delicious Miso soup. I enjoyed the Teriyaki Chicken and Tempura Deluxe Lunch Box for

\$9.95, which came with steamed rice, 4 pieces of very good California roll, a crisp salad with a terrific, creamy, (addictive) Miso based dressing, Wasabi and ginger. The shrimp and vegetable tempura were very crisp, and light. While the vegetable tempura was the basic batter type, the shrimp was different that any I've had before, with a coating that can only be described as being composed of tiny crispy little pieces of fried tempura batter. The effect was wonderful. Airy and slightly crunchy, with a delicate bite, with the shrimp staying moist and tender inside. The very generous portion of Teriyaki Chicken was delicious.

Mary Jo had the Teriyaki Salmon and Tempura Lunch Box for \$7.95, which came with rice and salad, and a piece of my California roll, which she also thought quite tasty. Although I didn't try the Teriyaki Salmon, it looked wonderful, and was pronounced more than satisfactory. We both ended up with enough left over to indulge in a second feast that night for dinner, an added bonus that always scores extra points with me when the foods this good. If you're going to eat leftovers, why not gourmet leftovers?

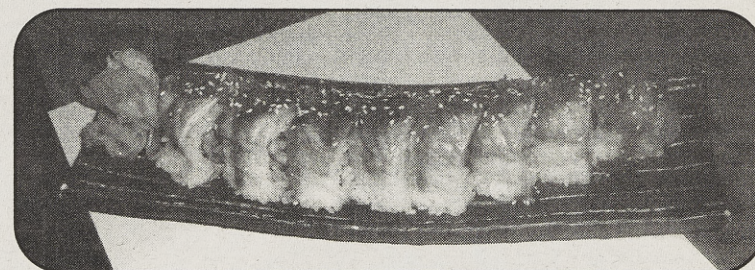
The title "Number One Roll" is not without merit. They have a great selection of rolls, including the distinctive Caterpillar Roll, a beautiful roll with broiled eel, avocado and other goodies, laid out to look like a pretty green Caterpillar. Lest you hesitate at eating anything that looks like a

bug, let me assure you that it's appearance was very appealing, and it didn't taste in the least like a bug. As a former helmet-less Harley passenger, I know what I'm talking about, okay? They also offer the tried and true favorites like Udon, Donburi, various Katsu's, sashimi, Nigiri Sushi, and the Ichi Maki specials, including my favorite, oysters on the half shell (next time.)

On my next visit, my dinner companion ordered the Beef Teriyaki and Sashimi Dinner Box, which came with rice, salad and an additional item of the chef's choice, which in this case just happened to be crisp, pork-filled Gyoza. All were very good, including the Beef Teriyaki, which I only tasted in the interest of science and ethical reporting. I'm glad I did. While I'm usually not too crazy about dead cow, this particular specimen was succulent and tender and quite flavorful. The sashimi was bright red, very fresh and firm, and I filched more than one piece off her plate (okay, she fed it to me.) We also tried the Spicy Tuna Temaki, a fat and flavorful little class act that pleased my companion. She's a spicy kinda gal.

I have to be honest. I didn't go back to try more and different items, thus giving a broader and more accurate journalistic account of Ichi Maki's offerings; I went back because what I ate on my first visit was so darn good that I just had to have more of it. And despite what they say about your "number one roll", the second time WAS as good as the first time. They say the third time is the charm, but if the Ichi Maki charms me any more than it already has, I'll have to move closer.

Ichi maki is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:00 am till 3:30 pm for lunch and 4:30 to 9:30 for dinner. On Saturday and Sunday they open at 4:30 pm, and close at 9:30 pm



The Caterpillar Sushi Roll is a mouth-watering treat

on Saturday, and 9:00 pm on Sunday. Call Ahead for takeout at 916.635.8880, or Fax at 916.635.8878. Ichi Maki is located at 11291 Folsom Blvd., in Rancho Cordova, just a little east of Sunrise Blvd. ▼

FAUX SAI GON

I love Vietnamese food, and even more so if it's conveniently located. Since I regularly shop for interesting or exotic items at the Asian markets on Stockton Blvd, last week I found myself in close proximity to a Pho restaurant that always seemed to be busy. Good sign, so I popped inside. While I wasn't in the mood for a steaming bowl of Pho (a Vietnamese noodle soup) the menu had a lot of other things to offer, including Chinese food. And while the place looked vaguely familiar, I couldn't remember if I'd been there, or what I'd eaten if I HAD been there. Bad sign. I should have taken that as an omen. Most people remember a restaurant if they've had truly good food there.

Since I was by myself and knew I wouldn't feel like eating microwaved leftovers for more than a day or two, I only ordered two dishes, the Chicken Chow Fun (#94) and the deep fried prawns (#34). From past experience I've learned to point out the menu item and confirm my order when it's first taken, and even though I'd done that, I was brought the House Special Chow Fun (#91) instead of the Chicken Chow Fun. It wasn't until I started poking around in it that I realized that there were things on that plate that shouldn't be there, such as beef, shrimp and some slices of mystery meat that looked vaguely like some kind of homemade sausage loaf, with the consistency of Spam. But it wasn't Spam. I like Spam (yes, I'll admit it!) While the broad chow

fun noodles, bean sprouts and scallions were okay, the taste was pretty bland, and the presence of the chewy, overcooked shrimp and the undesired meat (I was going to say red meat, but I wasn't really sure) pretty much ruined it for me.

Why didn't I flag the waitress down, you ask? Because I was tired, didn't want to wait for more food, and I was now irritable. And if she didn't understand me the first two times I stated my order, then why should I think she was going to understand it a third time? Not to mention that eye contact in the place was absolutely non-existent, and I really didn't want to stand up and holler for attention. Apparently,

once your food comes, the wait staff is done with you, since they do not speak to you, collect your money or check on you again. Besides, 7 out of 10 unsatisfied customers don't complain, and I wanted to

keep the experience real. I hoped that the prawns would be good, and put me in a better frame of mind.

But t'was not to be. Although the order was a generous 10 count, the battered and deep fried prawns were cooked until they were dark brown, a bit hard, and very crunchy, long past the golden, crisp stage. The sand vein I encountered on my first, tough, chewy bite brought a gritty dampness to my rapidly waning enthusiasm, and I never did get all that grit out of my teeth until I went home and brushed them. The other prawns were no better. I took the rest of the House Special Chow Fun and the prawns in a to-go box that I had to go up to the counter to ask for. I guess I was thinking that if I took the rest of the food home, I might be ambitious enough to pick out the meat and fix it up somehow, but mostly I just couldn't stand to throw money away.

Besides, I have a roommate who is just the opposite of Mikey; he'll eat anything, especially if he doesn't have to pay for it.

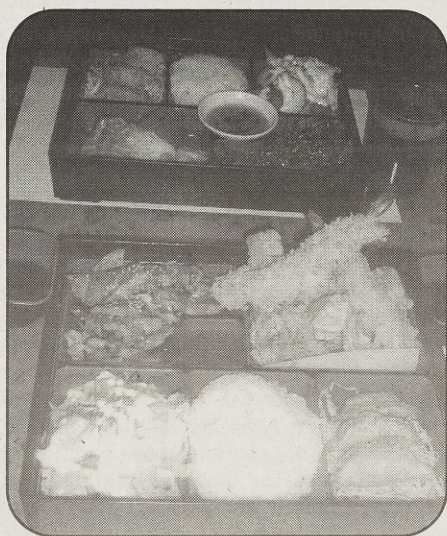
As I made my way up to the counter to pay the bill, I realized why the place had seemed a bit familiar when I came in. It was the same (and only) restaurant I have ever walked out on without paying the bill. On that previous occasion, last year, the leathery, darkened little ribs I ordered were so hard and dry that they were inedible, the prawns were chewy and overcooked even then, and everything else was mediocre at best. I remembered that I had tried to flag someone down for over 10 minutes before I got up and walked out in disgust. A year

later, my experience wasn't much better. I was invisible then, and apparently remain so.

When I got home, I tried to feed the shrimp to roommates cats, but they would have none of it. At that point I realized that I would be doing my hungry roommate a disservice by

pawning off these particular leftovers on him, so they joined the mummified prawns in the garbage disposal. I didn't want to insult the guy.

Maybe Pho Sai Gon is a good place to eat if you know what to order. Maybe the Pho is good. That's what most people seemed to be eating. There has to be some reason the place is so busy, but I will never know why, because I won't be going back. ▼



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Dear Mom, my husband is a big time writer and works for some high-profile publications. I have recently started to do some writing myself, on subjects I like. While my husband is outwardly supportive, I recently found out that he had been going into my documents before I sent them and editing them to sound like he thinks they should be. I told him I didn't want his help; I wanted to do this myself. When I found out what he was doing, it made me want to stop writing all together. This is my project and I wish he would but out, but how do I tell him without hurting his feelings? Signed, Ivanna Duit

Child, this is a question everyone who ever had a drama queen or an artist in their life asks every day. The best way you can do it is just be direct, but make sure to validate their feelings. I learned that from that sweet Oprah girl I watch on TV. Just sit him down and tell him, I know you are lookin' out for me, but I need to do this on my own. But maybe you should wonder if he's trying to help you, or if he's scared that you might be a better writer than

him? If that's the case, maybe every once in a while you could ask him his advice about something. Make it something small that you aren't concerned about, but something he can feel like he is helping you with. If none of this helps, save your work to disc and hide it in your sock drawer. That's where my son kept his International Male catalogs. Good luck, Darlin'!

Dear Mom, I just started seeing a great guy who is recently out, but he has children. His ex-wife wasn't much of a mother so he got custody of the kids. He's a great dad and he really loves his children. But I don't know if I'm going to be a very good parent or whether I want to try or not. Should I just nip this in the bud? Signed, Never Wanted Kids To Begin With

Baby, I see several things goin' on here, the first bein' that you have a man who is gonna be struggling with both the issues of raisin' children as a single parent, and coming out. One is enough work without the other.

So you are gonna have to be a patient person to deal with both those issues. And those issues aren't gonna stop with just him, the kids are going to be dealing with the separation, plus having to share their dad and coping with his coming out. If the kids are fairly young, this transition may be fairly

easy, but if they are older, baby, you are gonna need to be one strong person to deal with the attitudes that are gonna be comin' your way. You think ex-boyfriends are evil, wait until you see a kid who feels threatened by the perceived loss of their daddy! But now I want to ask you a question: as much as you want him to be your daddy, are you willing to live with the fact that his being their daddy will always come first over anything you may want? Some of these fancy therapists'll tell ya about compromise and limits, but when it comes down to it, the kids will always come first, and if you become party of that unit, you need to be ready to put their needs above your own. If you can do that, then don't let a good man get away. Love ya, Baby! ▼

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Tarotscopes

By
JESSICA RABBIT
MGW STAFF



My girlfriend has been hooked on her ex for the entire time we've been together. I hate it, but she persists. Now the ex is coming for a visit. Am I setting myself up to just get hurt?—Berkeley, CA

Dear Seeker, It's a terrible thing to feel as though you are competing with someone's past, and this looks like such a painful situation. You are not without choices here and I have a feeling that you will need to walk away from your girlfriend a little bit in order to let her really miss you and gauge what life would be like without you. She doesn't see that part clearly right now— as the 5 of Swords she truly believes that you and the ex share the same emotional space in her world and she is tortured by it. You, as the 7 of Pentacles, need to be willing to take the risk of moving back and protecting yourself on one level, without withdrawing hope and your belief in love (the Knight of Cups.) The ex is coming up as the 6 of Swords— the harsh reality that pierces the fantasy. She is not who your girlfriend thinks she is, but you cannot tell your girlfriend that because she doesn't want to hear it. Instead, let this woman show herself to be who she truly is over time and watch how that unfolds. Your outcomes are so-so. Know that there is benevolence toward you in the Universe. The divine mother recognizes your struggle (6 of Pentacles) and will allow you to show up in a good light (6 of Wands.) But there is more heartache to be had from this, I'm afraid (3 of Swords.) It looks like it's ok in the end (The High Priestess is watching over you), but it's a bumpy ride.

Dear Jessica, My boyfriend is really into racing cars. In fact, he likes it so much that he spends all summer every weekend doing it and I hardly get to see him. What can I do to make him stay home with me?—Hartsdale, NY

Dear Seeker, You know, we could design a spell for you to do on him...just kidding. That's not the best use of magic. In one word, what I am seeing you need is PATIENCE. You want to be his whole world (the Emperor), but it's not healthy or useful to be that. He gets upset with your jealousy (3 of Pentacles.) Then, communication becomes difficult and there is trouble in Paradise. If you can find your own, similarly time-consuming hobby, you wouldn't feel bored and alone. Instead, you would be busy, too, and feel productive (2 of Pentacles.) Your outcomes are showing me that as long as you are willing to rise to the challenge of meshing your already-full life with his already-full life (Ace of Cups), everything will turn out just fine in the end (King of Cups) and he will be more understanding. But that said, I do think you will, despite my advice to stick around and work it through, withdraw from him for a while and delay the process of understanding (4 of Swords.) Try not to— it will only prolong the tension. ▼

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader in the Bay Area. She reads privately for clients over the telephone or in person and can be reached at jessica@sacredtarot.com or via the web at sacredtarot.com. She also reads every Friday night at the White Horse Bar on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Metrical unit
5 Arabian judge
9 Grandfather of Saul
12 Exude
13 Sleeping
14 Mountain on Crete
15 Javanese carriage
16 Weed
17 Computer generated imagery (abbr.)
18 Alcott heroine
20 Sable
22 Article
25 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
27 Garland
28 Time period
29 International (abbr.)
31 And other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.)
34 Sinbad's bird

35 Fr. author
37 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
38 Wing (pref.)
40 Grape syrup
41 Jap. fish
42 Article (Fr.)
44 Negative population growth (abbr.)
45 Deviate
46 Necktie
49 Droop
51 Male person
52 Baseball equipment
54 Eth. Danakil people
58 Pointed (pref.)
59 Afr. tree
60 Polish rum cake
61 Footlike structure
62 Direct
63 Poetic foot

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

F	I	C	O	M	A	H	A	T	A	V
E	V	O	E	A	G	A	R	A	B	E
D	E	A	N	I	A	N	A	C	I	T
C	O	R	N	U	R	E	T	R	O	
S	C	H	N	O	Z	L	A	D		
W	I	D	E	N		U	T	T	E	R
A	M	O		E	L	D		I	R	E
B	A	G	A	S	S	E		A	S	C
	R	H	E		S	A	T	E	E	N
S	A	B	E	R		C	A	L	E	B
A	B	A		I	C	A	L	E	R	A
H	I	C		V	I	N	A		V	A
O	A	K		E	R	A	T		E	N

DOWN
1 Before some vowels (pref.)
2 Tumor (suf.)
3 Free
4 Monad
5 Felis (2 words)
6 Amateur Boxing Assn. (abbr.)

7 Skin (suf.)
8 Utopian
9 Wink
10 Wayside
11 Pour
19 Camelot lady
21 Female ruff
22 Manmade protective mound
23 Owl's cry
24 Moon of Saturn
26 Hindu soul
30 Pulka (2 words)
32 City in Judah
33 Den
36 Legend
39 Race the motor
43 Palmetto
46 Thunder sound
47 People
48 Subtract
50 Tar
53 Yarn measure
55 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)
56 Antibalistic Missile (abbr.)
57 Mortar beater



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19) We can't do what everyone wants us to all the time. It's OK to say "no" once in a while, just be sure you are saying no to the right thing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your family is in need of your support, not your judgement. You may be stretched 100 different ways, but you can handle it if you try.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Take a moment to reflect on the good things in your life and be happy. Things are getting better all the time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Now is the time to meet new people and expand your social circle. It may seem hard, but the rewards will

be great. Now is a good time to start a new relationship as well.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Not everyone feels the same way you do about things. Stop throwing tantrums to get your way. In the end you are only giving yourself a bad reputation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You are just workin' my nerves with your attitude. Slow down and chill out. If you plan on making a trip this summer, make arrangements now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Everything is not what it seems. Make sure to check the facts. don't sign anything until you've had someone double-check everything.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) If you're ready to move on, the time is now. Sometimes you just have to jump in. Stop dipping

your toes in the water and just go for it. You'll be glad you did in the long run.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your flakey tendencies are ruining other people's plans. Remember your life effects others, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Big changes are making you feel overwhelmed. remember you have friends who will be there if you ask them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) trying to make things happen that aren't supposed to happen is pointless and a waste of energy. Focus on yourself and leave others alone. You'll be glad you did.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Quit smoking, grow up and get a real job ya lazy bum! It's a growing time for pieces, time for you to start considering what the future holds past just tomorrow. ▼

Closer Than Ever a Fun Ride

Kicking off it's tenth season The Studio Theatre is presenting *Closer Than Ever*, the musical review that, according to the show's associate Producer Nisa Davis Hayden "put the theatre on the map". *Closer Than Ever* was written by Richard Maltby, Jr. and David Shire of *Starting Here*, *Starting Now* and Broadway's *Big* fame.

As musical reviews go *Closer Than Ever* has no plot but is rather a series of songs that deal with a recurring theme. In this case the theme is set up in the opening number entitled "Doors" which puts forth the idea that life is a series of choices and that the different paths we take is like going through a door without knowing what is really on the other side. Sounds simple but Maltby's brilliant lyrics makes each song their own story with themes that are universal and so human that everyone should be able to relate on some level throughout the show.

The 5 person cast performs with great energy, rarely falling flat and each have their own standout moments.

Craig Morphis the strongest cast member sings "One of the Good Guys" and perfectly captures, with poignancy and humor, the essence of a married man who is excited at the opportunity of a spontaneous fling while in Hawaii on business, the pride of saying no and keeping his vows and the honest regret some years later looking back once his marriage had settled into a pale routine.

Jacqueline Schultz, a strong actress, performs "Life Story"

with such honesty one wonders if didn't live it herself. The song tells the story of a 1960's activist who married a liberated man (they shared the household chores) and winds up alone raising her son, taking jobs from

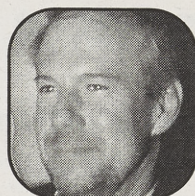
young women who have their positions because of the battles she had fought and won. Schultz also has a commanding stage presence but at times through-

out the show one wishes she had a stronger voice to match the material.

"Miss Byrd" a mousey office worker who has an active sex life that she does not share around the water cooler is laugh out loud funny as performed by Rachel Songer. Songer also hits all the right funny notes with Schultz as a scientist trying to make a case for not needing men in their lives in "The Bear, the Tiger, the Hamster and the Mole."

Unfortunately in the second act

By
DAVIS WARPNESS
MGW STAFF



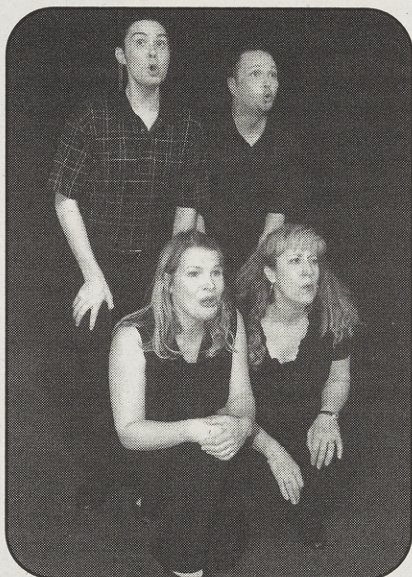
Songer can't save the bluesy "Back on Base" but that seems to be more of a problem with the direction as the number could not decide on being sultry or humorous, thus being neither.

Rounding out the cast is William Hedge on the grand piano and Jerry Lee with a great smile and a strong voice. Maybe it was just coming off of playing Miss Bible Belt in *Pagaent* but Lee did a fun job of opening the second act in drag as Nancy the Painter in "Three Friends" who after ten or more years wonder why they are still friends but remain so just the same.

As well as the show is written and performed though it should be said that musically there are no stand out tunes and by the middle of the second act it starts to feel like it has all been said before.

Performed with simple but effective staging the production runs two hours including a 15 minute intermission. This is not gay theatre but it is a professional production that anyone who has lived past 40 can identify with as we have all been there or known someone who has at some point in time. ▼

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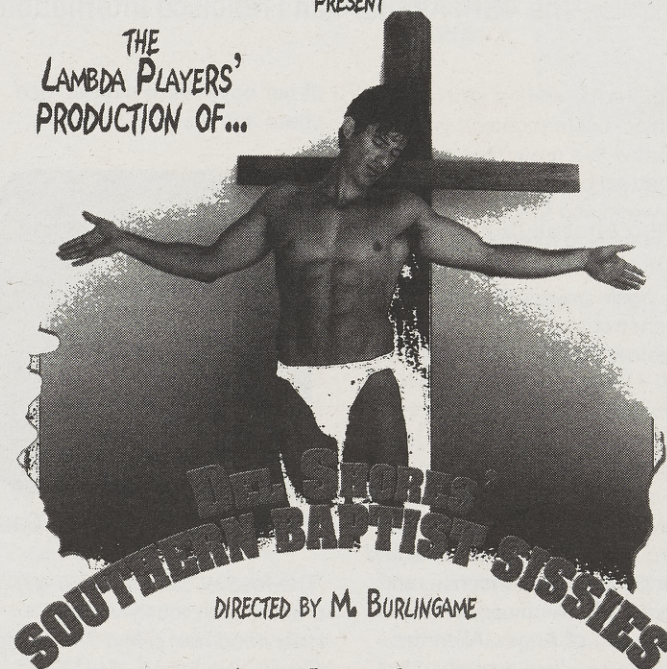
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THIS SHOW CONTAINS NUDITY & ADULT SITUATIONS



LAMBDA PLAYERS

PRESENTS

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BY JONATHAN TOLINS

JUNE 3-JULY 3

CATCH
BY TONY McDONALD

JULY 8-AUG. 6

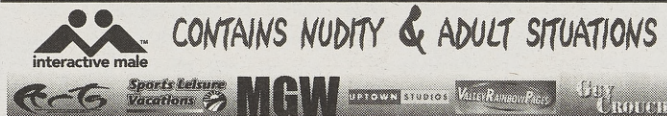
PARTY
BY DAVID DILLON
AUG. 12-SEPT. 3

SOMEBODY ELSE'S LIFE
JERRY RABUSHKA
SEPT. 9 & 10

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HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

CONTAINS NUDITY & ADULT SITUATIONS



International, Queer Films Invade Frisco

The 48th Annual San Francisco International Film Festival, April 21–May 5

Before the rush of summer blockbusters comes your way, now is a great time to turn your attention away from Hollywood and focus on the 48th San Francisco International Film Festival, April 21–May 5, which once again graces the Bay Area and showcases 185 films from 49 countries, including 79 feature films, 71 shorts, and 35 documentaries.

Among the various actors and directors in attendance during the festival will be Joan Allen who will receive the Peter J. Owens Award, given to an actor "saluted for brilliance, independence, and integrity." Currently appearing in *The Upside of Anger*, Allen has impressed audiences and critics around the world with her performances in widely diverse roles, including *Face/Off* (1997), *The Ice Storm* (1997), and *The Bourne Supremacy* (2004).

The film festival opens on April 21 at the historic Castro Theatre with Costa-Gavras' *The Ax* (France, 2005) about a laid-off middle manager who devises a novel approach to finding a new job. This dark comedy puts outsourcing, downsizing, and other modern-day business trends where they belong—on the chopping block—by taking the logic of capitalism to its illogical extreme, and giving new meaning to the term, "making a killing."



Courteney Cox Arquette in November

Midway through the festival comes the mind-bending psychological thriller *November* (Greg Harrison, dir.; USA, 2004). Courteney Cox Arquette comes a long way from *Friends* as she plays a photographer struggling to separate reality and fantasy as she pieces together the mystery

of her boyfriend's murder, one photo and memory at a time.

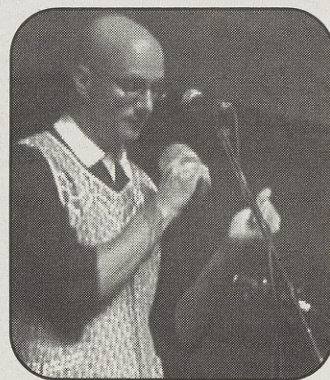


Craig Lucas' *The Dying Gaul*

The festival closes with a gay-themed, deliciously wicked Hollywood noir called *The Dying Gaul* (Craig Lucas, dir.; USA, 2004), in which a screenwriter mourning his lover's death is plunged into a Faustian bargain. Turning the detritus of modern Los Angeles—cell phones, Internet addicts, sleazy executives—into Greek tragedy, playwright-turned director Lucas sends a delightful, poisoned valentine to Hollywood.

Following each of these special screenings will be parties at which the actors and directors will be attending.

A number of queer-themed movies make an appearance as well:



Life in a Box

Life in a Box (Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer, dir.; USA, 2005) is a down-home documentary that follows the queer alt-country duo called Y'all as they travel across America in their stylish trailer home, bringing catchy tunes, folksy humor, lucky green dresses, and relationship drama to their Bible Belt fans.



5x2

5x2 (France, 2004), the newest film from the brilliant François Ozon, tells of a couple's deterioration from lovers to strangers, in which the story begins at the end, starting with the couple's separation proceedings and spinning backwards to their first encounter.

The Joy of Life (Jenni Olson, dir.; USA, 2004) is a sublime hybrid of experimental, documentary, and narrative filmmaking styles that charts the life and loves of a sensitive butch dyke, lyrically narrated by Los Angeles artist, actor, and director, Harriet "Harry" Dodge.

Pursuit of Equality (Geoff Callan and Mike Shaw, dir.; USA, 2004) covers the events leading up to February 12, 2004, when the city of San Francisco made history by issuing same-sex marriage licenses. This film covers the groundbreaking event and is a tribute to the people who were involved—those who were married and those who decided to make same-sex marriage a civic policy. After the film shows the first couple married, lesbian movement icons and senior citizens Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, it moves to the streets, where hundreds lined up to participate and others to protest. The film also goes behind the scenes to portray those who triggered the entire event: Mayor Gavin Newsom, his staff, and the city court.

Against a backdrop of junkies, homeless families and hustlers, *Ronda Nocturna* (Edgardo Cozarinsky, dir.;

Argentina/France, 2005) follows a young man on a dark journey through the sex-and-death-drenched streets of Buenos Aires. The young man's good looks and decadent indifference prove too grand for the nuisances of his rural upbringing.

Split Screen: Two Films by Amir Muhammad showcases two films by Malaysia's cutting-edge indie filmmaker. *The Year of Living Vicariously* (2005) is a documentary shot during the making of an Indonesian political epic. *Tokyo Magic Hour* (2004) is an intimate gay love letter in the form of an experimental film.

Aside from these queer-themed films, other noteworthy pictures stand out and deserve special mention.

Rugby is a rough sport. When quadriplegics play it, it's even rougher. *Murderball* (Dana Adam Shapiro and Henry Alex Rubin, dir.; USA, 2004) is the richly rewarding account of athletes who play hypercompetitive rugby in their wheelchairs. Included are their tense backstories, their intimate relationships with wives and girlfriends and, in one case, with the man who put one of them in his wheelchair.



Boxers and Ballerinas

Boxers and Ballerinas (Mike Cahill and Brit Marling, dir.; USA, 2005) is a lively, beautifully filmed documentary about four Cuban athletes and dancers, two in Miami and two in Havana, who struggle to perfect their craft while weighing obligations to family, homeland, and themselves. Unlike many documentaries that feature lots of talking heads, *Boxers and Ballerinas* displays visual characteristics seen mostly in dramas. It's a definite must-see.



Edgar G. Ulmer

Edgar G. Ulmer: The Man Off Screen (Michael Palm, dir.; Austria, 2004) is a creative documentary (talking heads this time, but that's OK) about the never-heard-of director of such bottom-scraping "B" pictures as *Detour* and *Man from Planet X*. If you thought Ed Wood was about a weird director, check out this man whose production company was called Poverty Row. Featuring Peter Bogdanovich, John Landis, Wim Wenders, Ann Savage, and many more.

Before there were violent comic books like *Sin City* there were ancient, dramatic stories painted on scrolls. *Into the Picture Scroll: The Tale of Yamanaka Tokiwa* (Sumiko Haneda, dir., Japan, 2004) is a visually rich film about a famous Japanese scroll painting of the Edo period 400 years ago. The story of a samurai's revenge is cinematically brought to life in way that masterfully redefines the art documentary. It's a case where two dimensions come alive through the sheer power of storytelling, not special effects. Featuring a newly composed joruri score (ballad singing with shamisen accompaniment) that may sound dissonant to Western ears but adds to the stirring cinematic work about this Japanese cultural treasure.

These are only a few of the many interesting films coming to the 48th San Francisco International Film Festival. If you love cinema, you owe it to yourself to head over to San Francisco during the next couple of weeks and check out the festival, running April 21–May 5 at the AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres and Castro Theater in San Francisco; and the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley, among other venues. Info: www.sffs.org/fest05 and (415) 561-5000. ▼

Porn Noir: Sin City

The trailer for Frank Miller's *Sin City* sure is a knockout. Dripping with retro coolness and a feeling of punk-style film noir, the advertisement presents an artful glimpse of a strange, alluring world that seems unique despite its familiarity. Combining computer animation with highly

minority: Crips, Bloods, KKK, Al-Qaeda.

Sin City is not for wusses. This is hardcore noir, a "town without pity" that's alive with hard-boiled, crooked cops, sexy dames, and brokenhearted vigilantes. You know the type. Here and there, even a hero. Men are men, and

about the power structure that rules the city—and perhaps permeates the known universe, for all we know. He also encounters Kevin (Elijah Wood), the most sinful evildoer who ever wore glasses.

Meanwhile, Dwight (Clive Owen), a private dick who can't seem to shake the trouble that's always at his heels, aids his hooker friends in seedy, wanton Old Town. Led by Gail (Rosario Dawson), the well-armed group combat the threat to their existence that arises after they kill an undercover cop, Jackie Boy (Benicio Del Toro). He had it coming but he should've been treated with kid gloves anyway.

Finally, Hartigan (Bruce Willis), an honest cop with a frail ticker, saves the life of an 11-year-old girl only to find himself leading the bad guys straight to her years later so they can finish the job. The main thug in this tale is the most disgusting wretch you've ever seen. No wonder they call him Yellow Bastard (Nick Stahl).

On the surface, this is exhilarating stuff for an action flick. Cars chase each other, guns go off, rain pelts the windshield, blood oozes colorfully, people fall from great heights, shafts of moonlight fall at dramatic angles, and the night is perpetual.

The film looks great. All this visual artistry is possible thanks to the latest in digital animation. Real people. Fake sets. What a combination.

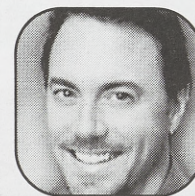
But wait, there's more. People get punched, trampled, scuffed up, dismembered, and worse. It's all stylized, of course, so it's only mildly unnerving. Don't dwell on it and you won't hurt yourself.

Each episode might be tolerable on its own. But after about 30 minutes or so your head reels from the carnage. The film continues well past when it should end.

Sin City may be a place in a fevered imagination but there's really no there there. Underneath all the noir trappings lies little redemption to make the trip worthwhile. Instead, there's simply blind retaliation—a state of mind that, incidentally, seems so much in fashion among our cities' violent gangs.

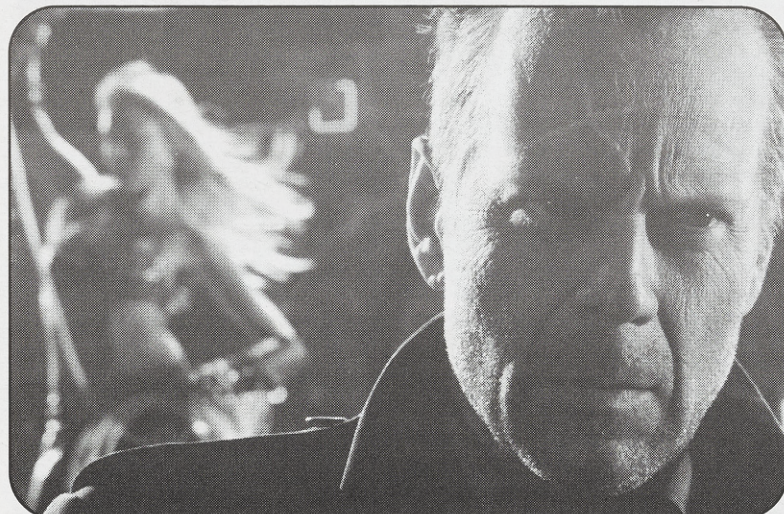
In our world, gang members accept their lot in life. So too

By
STEFAN GRUENWEDEL
MGW STAFF



Sin City

Starring Bruce Willis, Benicio Del Toro, Clive Owen, Mickey Rourke, Jessica Alba, and Rosario Dawson.
Written and directed by Frank Miller and Robert Rodriguez.
(Rated R, 120 min.)



Nancy (Jessica Alba) is all grown up now when Hartigan (Bruce Willis) finally finds her in Frank Miller's *Sin City*.

stylized filmed actors, *Sin City* promises loads of action, tough guys, and voluptuous women wrapped inside a bleak, unforgiving environment. There's even Quentin Tarrantino, touted as a "special guest director," to contend with.

The movie, based on the best-selling series of "*Sin City*" graphic novels by Frank Miller, delivers all the excitement and visual flair that the trailer promises.

Unfortunately it also features debased elements conveniently omitted from the preview. Maybe they were there all the time, lurking beneath the gloss; I just wasn't looking for them.

Sin City packs a punch in the cerebral cortex, aiming its sights squarely at the primitive libidos of pubescent teenagers (straight guys, of course). Thinking adults who might actually care to learn something more interesting about this dangerous world are left out in the cold.

"Walk down the right back alley in *Sin City* and you can find anything," gushes the tagline. Sounds like Amsterdam to me.

"You've got to prove to your friends you're worth a damn. Sometimes it means dying. Sometimes it means killing a whole lotta people." Sounds like the slogan from any reckless

women are women. Or, shall we say, what many men imagine women to be in their nocturnal fantasies: slim, curvaceous, sexed-up, and extremely attracted to you, even if you look like a lug who needs a shave—or a nose job. Or both.

Give me a break. How old are we? It's fine to keep such lascivious thoughts to oneself but propagating them to the masses simply belies one's sexual repression and emotional immaturity.

Alternating among three dark stories that connect loosely at the end, *Sin City* follows the sad luck of Marv (Mickey Rourke), a hulk of a dude who's felt his fair share of blows to the head over the years. He's also dealt them right back, with a pow that looks as fearsome as it must feel. He unexpectedly hooks up with a blonde named Goldie (Jaime King), who warms to his bashed-up face as only a mother could. Actually, she's in mortal danger and clings to him for safety's sake. Not one to say no to a romp in the sack, Marv obliges and takes her home—only to find her stone cold the next morning, the victim of a mysterious poison delivered during the night while Marv lay sleeping. As he vows revenge and hunts her killer, he learns more than he bargained for

do the denizens of *Sin City*—actually named Basin City, probably because it's the antithesis of the "city on a hill." The available career choices are thin: street thug or crooked cop (or politician) for the men; prostitute or exotic dancer for the ladies. When Hartigan catches up with Nancy seven years later, he expects to find a bookworm reading in her room. Instead he finds a "sweet-heart of *Sin City*" gyrating atop a bar. And now she's legal. How convenient.

It's one thing to create a world that harkens back to a bygone era in filmmaking that's easily lampooned today but if you're going to adjust the level of violence to "suit" modern tastes, you should also update characters' motivations and maybe even their personalities so you can give audiences legitimate reason to care about them, or even hate them. Without that, it's just a cartoon—in the pejorative sense.

There's surprisingly little dimensionality of character in this three-dimensional digital world. Only a few of their terse one-liners hint at some complexity underneath.

The filmmakers could've thrown in a curve ball to make things genuinely interesting but they missed their chance. In one scene, Jackie Boy is cruising through Old Town, looking to score. His buddies are with him in

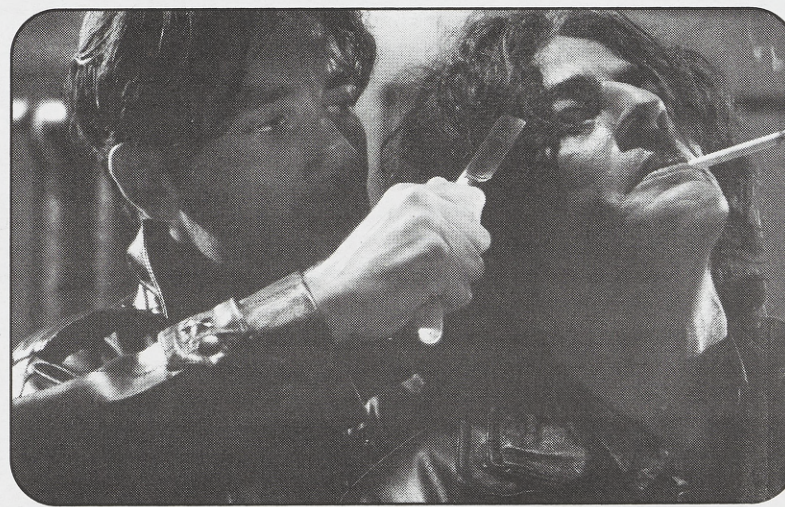
the car. He exchanges flirtatious barbs with a streetwalker. She notices the guys with him and says she doesn't do groups. She suggests he check out a gay bar down the road. A gay bar in *Sin City*? Now that would have been an interesting sight in this hyper-masculine world. We never see it.

Sin City's puerile level of sophistication is aptly demonstrated in another scene where Marv seeks the help of Lucille (Carla Gugino), a tough lady-friend and his parole officer who bandages him up while her undressed lover looks on. Lucille loves women, not men. Poor Marv wonders to himself why a dame with such a hot bod wouldn't want to jump in the sack with a man. Earth to Marv: she's a lesbian!

Nuances are mostly lost in *Sin City*. Occasionally there's a splash of color—figuratively as well as literally. Overall, the film's mindset is as black and white as its sets. There's good, see, and then there's evil. Perhaps that says more about America these days than anything else.

Sin City plays at local area multiplex theaters. Info: www.sincitythemovie.com ▼

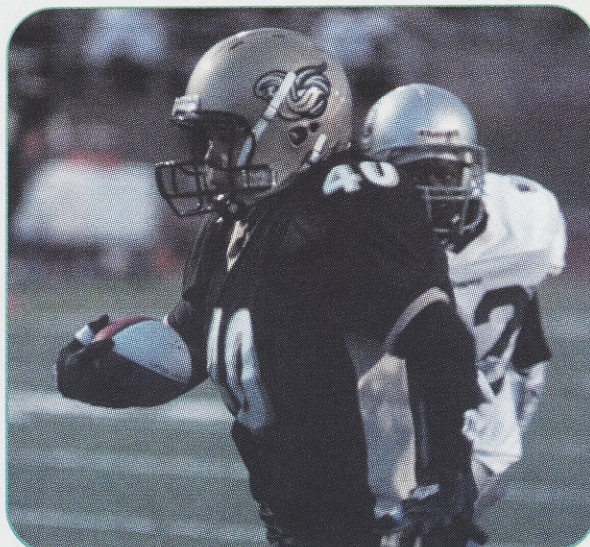
Dwight (Clive Owen) gets nasty with bad-boy Jackie Boy (Benicio Del Toro) in Frank Miller's *Sin City*.



World Champion Sacramento Sirens Start New Season off Right



No. 2 CHANTELLÉ "SLASH" POWERS



No. 40 JENNIE ANN "Q" QUAN



No. 22 JULIE "WICKED" WICHER

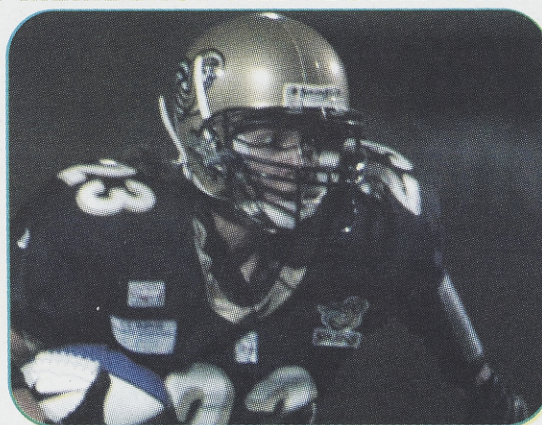


INDEPENDENT WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE MEMBERS: THE WORLD CHAMPION SACRAMENTO SIRENS

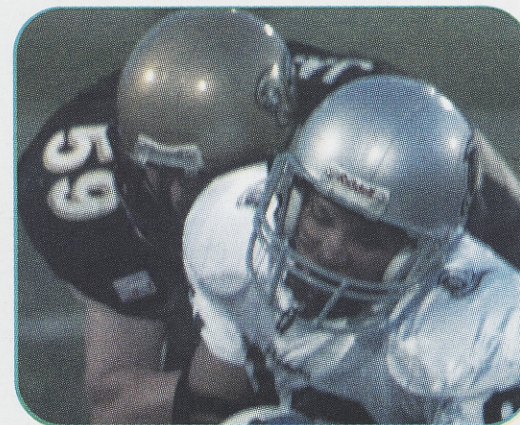
SACRAMENTO WANTS A WINNER. THAT'S ALL WE EVER HEAR ON TALK RADIO. THE FACT IS WE HAVE A WINNER IN A TEAM CALLED THE SIRENS. JUST LOOK AT THEIR RECORD. IN THREE YEARS THEY HAVE ONLY LOST ONE GAME. IN THEIR FIRST YEAR THEY WON THE WAFL CHAMPIONSHIP. SECOND YEAR THEY GOT STRONGER AND THE LEAGUE CHANGE AND AGAIN ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP. THIS TIME IN THE IWFL, AND THE THIRD YEAR WAS NO DIFFERENT, THEY WENT BACK TO BACK TO DEFEND AND TO REMAIN CHAMPIONS OF THE IWFL. IN FACT, AS I STATED EARLIER, THEY HAVE ONLY LOST ONE GAME IN THEIR THREE YEAR LIFE SPAN. THEY HAVE A NAME FOR THIS, IT'S CALLED A DYNASTY.

THIS IS WHAT I SEE, THEY'RE THREE TIME CHAMPS, THEIR GETTING FASTER, STRONGER, AND EVEN YOUNGER. NANCY STONER (CURRENT PLAYER ON THE SIRENS) STATES THAT THIS TEAM IS THE BEST TEAM SHE BEEN ON, AND GO ON ABOUT HOW GREAT THIS ROOKIE CLASS IS. I CHATTED WITH FOR A SHORT BIT, AND SAW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT. THE SIRENS COME TO THIS SEASON WITH A TARGET ON IT BACK, BECAUSE OF THE FACT THEY'RE THREE TIME CHAMPIONS AND MANY VETERANS ARE BACK. EIGHTEEN RETURNING VETS, ELEVEN WERE ON THE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM. THIS YEAR THE LEAGUE HAS LIMITED THE TEAMS TO THIRTY-FIVE PLAYERS ON THE SQUADS.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THEIR HOME THIS YEAR, THE SIRENS WILL PLAY THEIR HOME GAMES AT FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL. IT LOCATED ON HILLSDALE AND MCCLLOUD. THE FIELD IS AN ARTIFICIAL TURF MADE FROM OLD TIRE AND ITS QUITE SPONGY. THE FIELD MUST BE SEEN TO BELIEVE OR EVEN FEEL FOR ONESELF.



No. 23 MICHELLE "MIGHTY MOUSE" KAHLER



No. 59 LILL "DIAMOND LILL" JARRELL



SACRAMENTO SIRENS ARE BACK TO BACK THREE TIME WORLD CHAMPIONS

The Game

By
DANNY AMARO
MGW STAFF



IN THE FIRST QUARTER, RUNNING BACKS No. 23 MICHELLE (MIGHTY MOUSE) KAHLER AND No. 22 JULIE "WICKED" WICHER, LED THE RUNNING GAME WITH THE HELP BY FULLBACKS No. 44 KLINE, No. 40 QUAN, AND EXTRA RUNNING BACK No. 20 WILLIAMS, ANOTHER KEY PLAYER No. 34 LISA "THE BULLET" GIBLIN. IT WAS OBVIOUS THEY WERE ALL READY FOR TONIGHT'S GAME.

THE SIRENS DOMINATED FROM OPENING WHISTLE TO ENDING HORN. GREAT DEFENSE, LED BY "DIAMOND LILL JARRELL AND TWO-WAY PLAYER JULIE "WICKED" WICHER. AT THE START OF THE GAME OVER FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE WERE IN THE STANDS AND THAT FAN ENERGY HELP FUEL THE PASSION THROUGH OUT THE GAME.

WITH 3:09 LEFT IN THE FIRST QUARTER No. 44 GOT A GREAT BLOCK TO HELP HER GET INTO THE END ZONE, PAT WAS GOOD BY No. 28 JANELLE OKAMOTO. THE SIRENS WERE UP 7 TO 0. No. 20 WILLIAMS WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE BY A 32 YARD RUN GAIN.

IN THE SECOND QUARTER, A FUMBLE RECOVERY BY No. 35 SANCHEZ CHANGED THE WHOLE FEEL OF THE AT THIS POINT. THE DEFENSE JUST POURED MORE PRESSURE ON THE BANSHEES OFFENSE. ON THEIR FIRST DRIVE, THE SIRENS GOT TO THE BANSHEES 1" LINE ONLY TO FUMBLE IT TO THE BANSHEES, BUT ON THE NEXT PLAY; DIAMOND LIL TACKLES THE BANSHEES RUNNING BACK IN THE END ZONE FOR THE SAFETY. SIRENS LED 9 TO 0. WITH 6:46 LEFT IN THE HALF, No. 2 QUARTERBACK POWELL THROWS A PASS TO No. 81 GLENN 29 YARD GAIN TO SET UP A GOAL TO GOAL. DRIVE ENDS WITH A MISSED FIELD GOAL TRY BY No. 28 OKAMOTO. NEXT POSITION, WICHER HAD A ANOTHER GOOD RUN FOR A 12 YARD TOUCHDOWN AND PAT WAS GOOD BY No. 28 JANELLE OKAMOTO. SIRENS LED 16 TO 0.

AFTER THE KICK OFF, WITH 1:26 TO PLAY IN THE HALF; No. 90 SUMMERS RECOVERS A FUMBLE FOR A TOUCH DOWN AND PAT WAS GOOD BY OKAMOTO. SIRENS LED 23 TO 0. BANSHEES FINALLY GOT OVER THE 50 YARD LINE WITH 58 SECOND LEFT IN THE HALF. AS THE CLOCK EXPIRES. SIRENS LED AT HALFTIME 23 TO 0.

BANSHEES GOT THE BALL FIRST AFTER HALFTIME, BUT 3 AND OUT. ONLY TO PUNT THE BALL IN WHICH TOOK A STRANGE BOUNCE AND HIT A SIREN PLAYER, BANSHEES RECOVERED THE BALL. BANSHEES WERE DEEP IN THE SIRENS TERRITORY. SIRENS DEFENSE CAME ON STRONG. WICKED WICHER LEVELED THE QUARTERBACK (1 OF HER 4 1/2 SACKS) AND GREAT TACKLING BY DIAMOND LILL JARRELL, PRETTY MUCH STOPPED THE BANSHEES IN THEIR TRACKS REST OF THE GAME.

No. 22 KAHLER GOT A GREAT BLOCK SCAMPERED FOR 7YARD TOUCH DOWN, PAT GOOD BY No. 90 SUMMERS. SIRENS LED 30 TO 0.

No. 40 QUAN DID A GREAT DOING KICK OFF DUTY, COMBINE WITH HER GAINS ON OFFENSE. THE SERIES, KAHLER RAN FOR A 27 YARD GAIN. ONLY TO HAVE THE DRIVE STOPPED ON THE BANSHEES 1 YARD LINE, BANSHEES GOT THE BALL TO THE 27 YARD LINE OF THEIR OWN BEFORE PUNTING. THAT NEXT SERIES No. 2 POWELL THROWS AN INTERCEPTION, BUT FEW PLAYS LATER No. 59.

DIAMOND LILL INTERCEPTS A BANSHEES PASS AND START ANOTHER DRIVE ON BANSHEES 19 YARD LINE. WITH 5:40 LEFT IN THE 4TH. No. 22 WICHER DID A COUPLE MOVE AND INTO THE LAND OF QUICK 6, ANOTHER TOUCHDOWN RUN FOR HER THIS WAS 8 YARD GALLOP, PAT WAS GOOD BY No. 90 SUMMER. SIRENS LED 37 TO 0.

BANSHEES FINALLY LOOKED AS IF THEY WERE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, UNTIL No. 34 WISELY OF THE BANSHEES COUGHS UP THE BALL AND No. 43 PEEL RECOVERS THE FUMBLE; THEN No. 23 KAHLER RUNS A FEW PLAYS FOR ABOUT 20 YARD GAIN BEFORE #20 WILLIAMS TAKES THE BALL TO THE HOUSE. A 23 YARD TOUCH DOWN RUN PAT NO GOOD BY No. 90 SUMMER, BLOCKED BY BANSHEES. SIRENS LED 43 TO 0. WITH 1:58 LEFT IN THE GAME, WICHER GETS ANOTHER GREAT HIT ON THE QUARTERBACK. AFTER THE PUNT THE SIRENS WERE PUT ON THEIR OWN 37 YARD LINE WITH 57.1 SECONDS LEFT ON THE CLOCK, THE SIRENS TOOK A COUPLE OF KNEE DOWNS TO FINISH THE GAME. SIRENS WIN 43 TO 0.

WITH A NEW HOME AND A NEW SEASON THE WINNING CONTINUES. COACH GRAY STATED THAT THEY'RE OUT TO MAKE MORE HISTORY. I'M GLAD JUST TO BE WITNESS TO IT". ▼

SIRENS WIN 43 TO 0

Perception

Price



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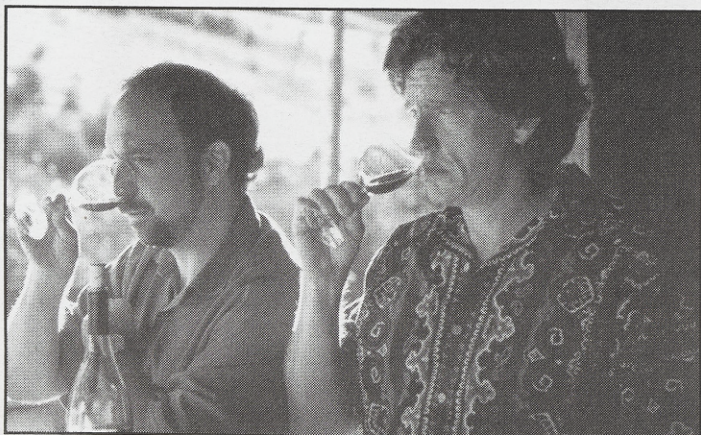
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Ice Princess Reigns Over April Releases

SWANNER: This has been a pretty big couple weeks for movies so I don't want to hold up the review by letting Brian know that many of the readers have been commenting on not just how bitter and cranky he is, but how mean he is to me by always calling me a "big girl". The big movie at the theatres right now is *Sin City*. Brian and I saw it and I think he liked it better than I did.

JUDD: If the "big dress" fits... Or "If it walks like a "big girl" and talks like a "big girl"..." Anyway...*Sin City* has to be one of the best movies I've seen in a long, long time. That's not to say that I didn't have my problems with it, but the good things about this movie completely outweigh any issues I may have. I will offer this caveat to our readers up front—do a little reading up on Frank Miller and his *Sin City* comic book series. I think the reason our preview audience was so divided in its reaction to the film is because the trailers for *Sin City* are so vague. No one knew what the movie was going to be about or what it was going to be like.

SWANNER: It was a bit too violent for me. I know you'll say it's because I'm a big girl but I found myself cringing a lot. I knew the film was based on Frank Miller's graphic comics but I didn't think it would be *that* graphic. I found myself counting decapitations and limbs lost. This is definitely not a family film.



Sideways comes to DVD this month.

“▼▼▼▼▼” = SEE IT NOW!

“▼▼▼▼” = SEE IT SOON!

“▼▼▼” = SEE IT IF U CAN!

“▼▼” = SEE THE DVD!

“▼” = RUN AWAY!

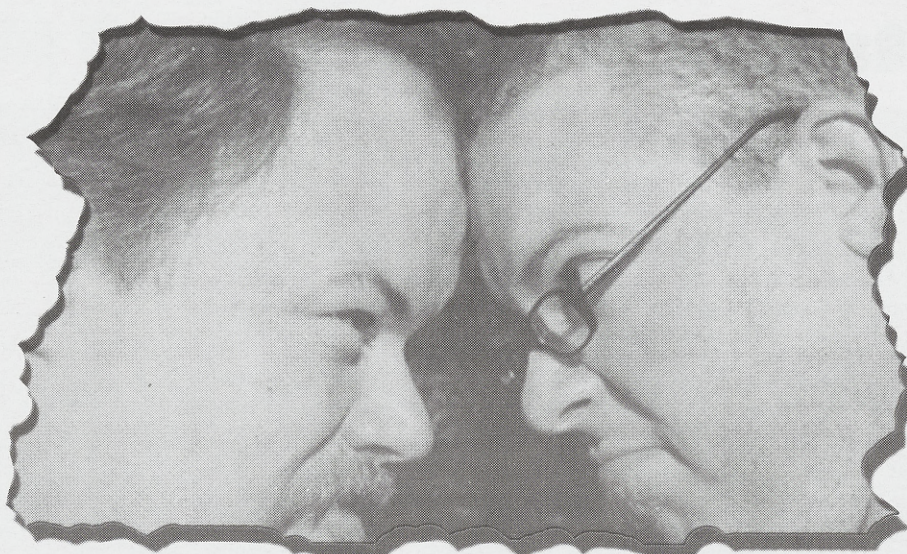
JUDD: It wasn't realistic violence. It was completely over the top, comic-book style (obviously) violence. Many people left the theater comparing it to *Pulp Fiction*, which is exactly the point. This is pulp-style characters, violence and imagery brought to the silver screen in its original comic book fashion. When you've got lines like "This is blood for blood and by the gallons. This is the old days, the bad days, the all or nothing days. They're back", you've got to have an idea of what you're getting into. Those people who think this is going to be a family film—they're idiots. I'm sorry, but they are. Just because the movie is based on a "comic book" doesn't mean you can bring the kiddies. This isn't *Archie*, *Casper*, or *Lil' Lulu*. This is adult entertainment—leave the children at home. To give our readers the basics, so that we're not just as vague as the trailers, Frank Miller wrote seven stories in the *Sin City* series. The movie takes four of those stories and brings them to life. One story is about Marv, played by Mickey Rourke, a huge, ugly man who's framed for killing a prostitute. Another story revolves around a murdered cop and super sexy, killer vixen prostitutes defending their turf. The other two stories involve Detective Hartigan, played by Bruce Willis, who's tracking down the Yellow Bastard played by Nick Stahl who's M.O. is to molest little girls—the

Yellow Bastard is also in cahoots with Kevin, played by Elijah Wood, who cannibalizes prostitutes. *Oh man! How could you not love this film?!?!?*

SWANNER: I know. This will be one to stuff stockings with this Christmas. I liked it more for the filmmaking than for the storylines. I think this is one of those films that will change the way movies are made. Every once in a while a film breaks all the rules. I thought that movie was going to be *Sky Captain...*, but I was wrong. That film is *Sin City* and I'm frightened and excited about what might come next. On a side note, Mickey Rourke's "Marv" character was great. I never got much from Rourke, but he'll be remembered for this one. It's the best performance in the movie and that says a lot because this film is full of great performances. Moving from blood and guts to hair and nails, We both saw *Beauty Shop*.

JUDD: I enjoyed *Beauty Shop*. I had figured I was going to like it given how much I enjoyed the two *Barbershop* films. Though I think that *Beauty Shop* doesn't take itself as seriously as the *Barbershops* and doesn't tackle as many issues.

SWANNER: I liked it so much more than *Barbershop*. It didn't take itself as serious and that's why I like it. It was more of a slice of life movie where we just get to meet all the women and get a hint of their stories. Queen Latifah really proved she is a leading lady and can open a movie. I thought all the actresses were good and the supporting actors...*hot*. I saw it with a mostly African American female audience and I'll tell you, we all had a good time.



Swanner & Judd

JUDD: I can't believe how grown-up little Rudy Huxtable is. Or how old Della Reese is—she looks like she's about to be Touched By An Angel of Death!

SWANNER: Be nice. It was a great ensemble. I also saw *Miss Congeniality 2*. It wasn't as good as the first one but it was fun. You know that Sandra Bullock can do no wrong in my eyes.

JUDD: Yeah. It's a shame I missed that one. Oh well, I missed part one so I'm sure the sequel wouldn't have made sense to me anyway. Two upcoming DVD releases we both reviewed are *The Woodsman* starring Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick and *Bad Education*. *The Woodsman* was one of last year's more notorious films due to it's subject. But I felt that it was all fluff.

SWANNER: I didn't think of it as fluff at all. I

liked all the performances and the

script and direction really had me on edge. The film centers around Kevin Bacon's character who has just been released from prison after serving time for pedophilia. I thought it was a good role for Bacon, not that he shies away from a good role, because he got to play someone who you try not to feel anything for, but I found myself wanting him to be OK in the end. The scene in the park had me screaming at the screen and I really wanted to take a shower after. As for *Bad Education*, I know you liked that more than me.

JUDD: You liked *The Woodsman* more than *Bad Education*? I should slap you! A child molester that lives across from a school? Whatever! A child molester that lives across from a school and watches a guy preying on little boys? Far-fetched! A child molester that lives across from a school and watches a guy preying on little boys and dates a woman that was molested by her brothers? Keep stretching! A child molester that lives across from a school, watches a guy preying on little boys, dates a woman that was molested by her brothers, follows a little girl to a park, wants to molest her, but she's already being molested by her father. Puh-LEEZE! I'm surprised David Alan Grier wasn't molesting Eve, just for the hell of it. It seems to me that the motto for movies in 2004 was, "If it can't be good, make it controversial." *Bad*

Education, on the other hand, was an excellent film!

SWANNER: *Bad Education* was boring

and confusing. Half the time I had no idea what was going on and the other half of the time I didn't care. Hot actors in their underwear only goes so far. If I remember I called to see if there was ever going to be full nudity and when you said no, I almost turned off the tape. At least *The Woodsman* was compelling.

JUDD: Compelling? What was compelling about *The Woodsman*? Trying to figure out who was going to be molested next? I was hoping Mos Def was going to molest Benjamin Bratt. No such luck. You thought *Bad*

Judd: Sideways sucked. It sucked, plain and simple. I would never subject myself to that torture again. That movie made me glad I'm gay.

Education was confusing? I heard a lot of people say they found it confusing. I didn't think it was all that confusing. It was explained right in the beginning of the film that everything that happened to Ignacio and Enrique as children was true, and everything that happened later in life was a part of the movie that Ignacio wrote. But then it turns up that Ignacio really isn't Ignacio, but the script really did belong to the real Ignacio. See? Clear as mud! And it wasn't hot actors in their underwear. It was Gael Garcia Bernal in his wet underwear with an extreme close-up. Oh, yeah!

SWANNER: Whatever! At least you proved my point. There are a lot of other DVD's coming out over the next couple weeks, some wonderful, and some *Sideways*. *Meet The Fockers* was a real surprise for me with really good performances and a good script that didn't rely on stupid physical humor the way the first one did. Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand were stand outs and I'm not saying that because I'm a big girl, but because it's true. *Spanglish* was one of my favorite movies from last year and I've been waiting to see it again. I still can't believe I'm looking forward to seeing an Adam

Sandler film again. *Hotel Rwanda* was interesting with good performances, but I didn't love it and *Sideways* still stands as a piece of crap and I'm not going to watch it again as so many people tell me to do. I hated it, I hated it, I hated it.

JUDD: I don't call you a big girl when you like good films made for adults. You're a big girl when you get all pie-eyed talking about the next Amanda Bynes feature. Quit exaggerating everything like a...large female. Anyway, Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand were very funny in *Meet the Fockers*. *Spanglish* was also excellent—and I didn't think I was going to like that one, but it grew on me. *Sideways* sucked. It sucked, plain and simple. I would never subject myself to that torture again. That movie made me glad I'm gay. If straight people take joy out of that kind of miserable behavior, no wonder the world is in the state it is.

SWANNER: It's good to know that when the rest of the world seems to love *Sideways* we can huddle together and loath it like it deserves to be loathed.

JUDD: That's what really matters, isn't it? We can call each other names and poke fun at

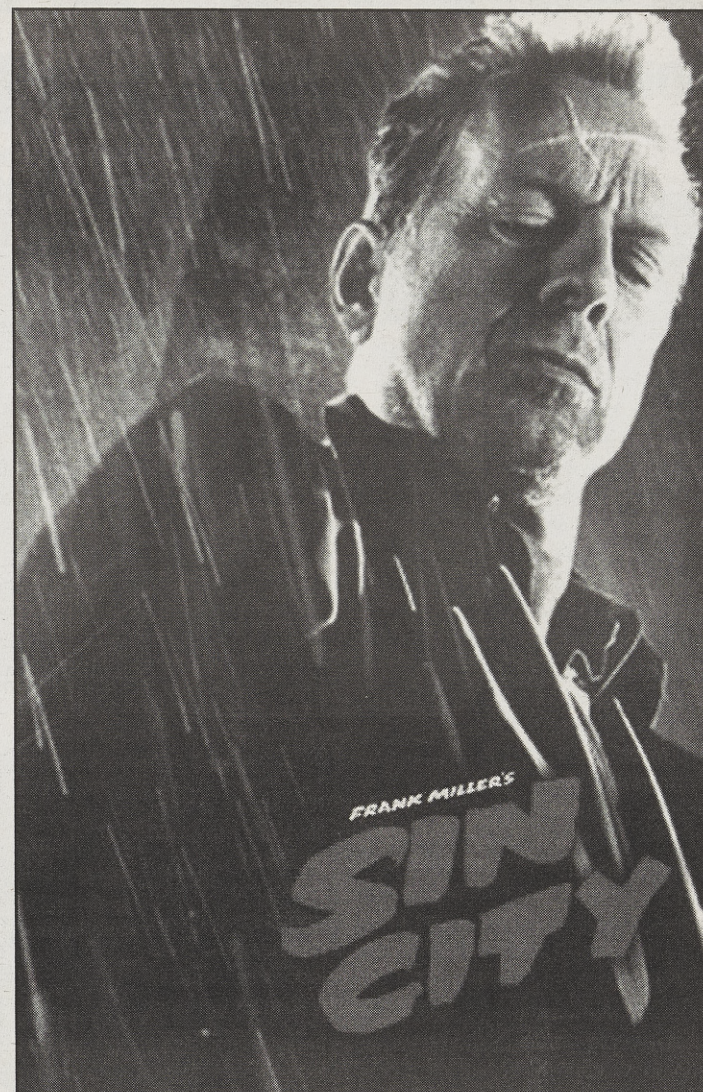
each other, but when faced with adversity we can cast our differences aside, come together and make sure that everyone knows that *Sideways* is a huge steaming pile of you-know-what. ▼

SWANNER

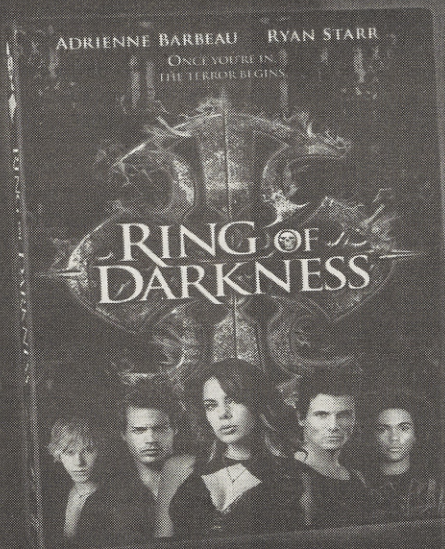
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WOODSMAN ▼▼▼
MEET THE FOCKERS ▼▼▼
SIDWAYS ▼

JUDD

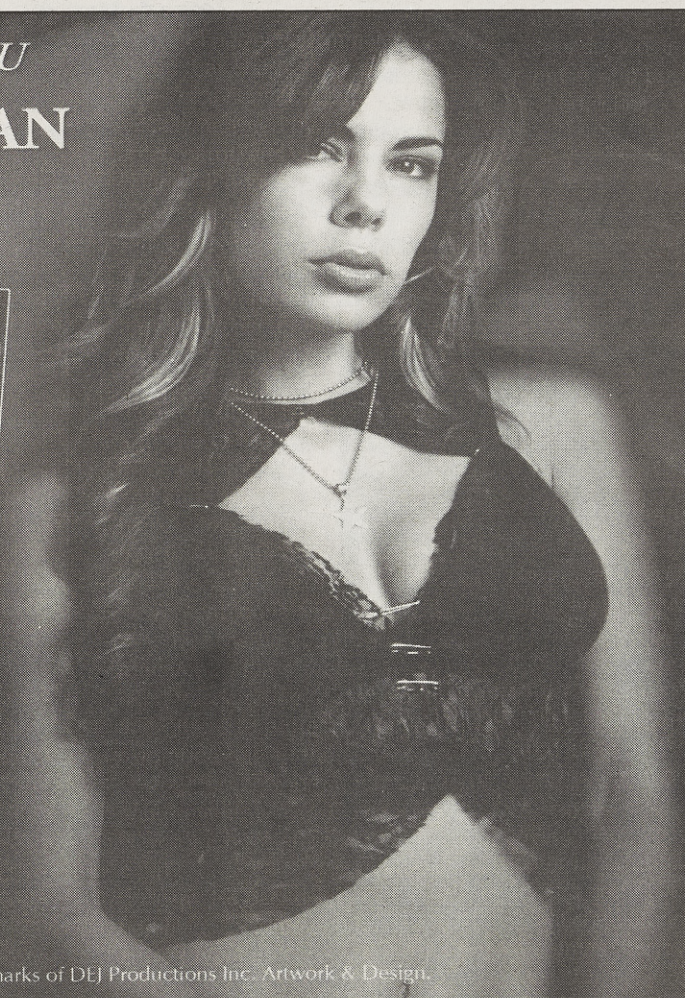
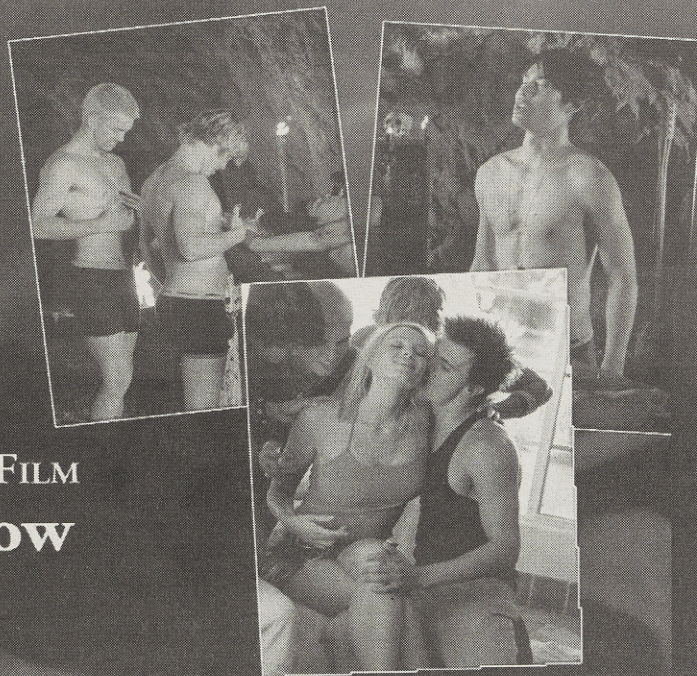
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BAD EDUCATION ▼▼▼▼
THE WOODSMAN ▼▼
MEET THE FOCKERS ▼▼▼
SIDWAYS 1/2



THESE BOYS WILL TELL YOU SHE'S NO LONGER AN AMERICAN IDOL

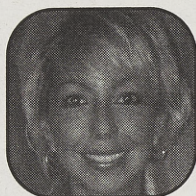


A DAVID DECOTEAU FILM
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Howling Woman Artist: Jeanette Morrow

By SHIRA
DAVIDA
GOLDBERG
MGW STAFF



Located off the beaten path in the heart of Old Sac, are professional local artists that work in a wide variety of media, from oils, wood and ceramic to anything in between. This cooperative was formed in November, 1979 by regional artists that maintain arduous schedules, yet, still dedicate their time and energies to allow for their passions, namely, the inception of artistic interpretation, creating a place that they could call their own. This was the beginning of Sacramento's The Artist's Collaborative.

The Artist's Collaborative seeks artists and crafts people who create premium, original work at reasonable prices. This is truly a cooperative, as every crafts person and artist share in the success of one another. Featured from the Artist Collaborative, is Jeanette Morrow, and her current collection of ceremonial clay masks. Masks have been an important display of a cultures, specifically utilized for social and religious, funerary and commemorative, therapeutic festive, and even theatrical uses.

Jeanette has had an attraction to masks, since the 1970's. As a teacher, she presented a

slide show on Eskimo ceremonial masks, sparking an on-going love affair behind the cultural traditions and the mysteries that surround them.

"My fascination with masks began in the 1970's when I gave a class presentation and slide show on Eskimo ceremonial masks for an art history class at San Francisco City College. Particularly compelling to me was a simple wood-carved mask of a human face with eyes and mouth depicting phases of the moon and the crown adorned with duck feathers. This mask spoke to me on a visceral level and the image of it stayed buried in my subconscious for two decades."

Masks have served different



Jeanette Morrow
Ceramic Masks

cultures for various religious and spiritual affairs. Some nation's believed in superior spirits that controlled, the human nature and the world. These masks served to be a representation in art form that was an incarnation of these beliefs. The change in identity of the wearer for that of the mask is essential, for if the spirit symbolized is not be inherent in the image of the mask.

In 1995 she studied pottery from studio potter Linnell Barnhart of Sacramento and began creating and crafting through amazing design and a sense of intimate history surrounding cultural masks with a growing zeal. Jeanette is able to reflect through her design how deeply rooted culture is in modern times, and that resonates.

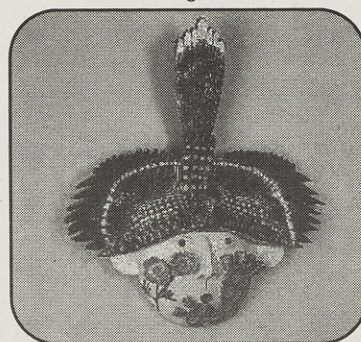
Jeanette comments, "Masks have been made and used by civilizations all over the world, dating back perhaps 20,000 years. Many have been created for ceremonials and often represent spirits and forces of nature and life. They have the ability to conceal, change or transform the person behind the image into something or someone else. It is

this transformational aspect of masks that I am exploring with my ceramic creations. To me the masks symbolize aspects of the self, and I am fascinated with exploring the human connection with the spiritual and natural world."

"The mask form is my blank canvas, starting out as a single slab of clay which I mold, carve and model into a variety of shapes, sizes and images. Although the initial creative impetus came from an attraction to Eskimo masks, my work is also influenced by other cultures. A decade of living in the Southwestern U.S., including time spent working on the Navajo reservation, gave me a deep appreciation for Native American imagery, particularly the visage of spiritual messengers called kachinas."

Kachinas are spirits, often of animals, who carry the prayers of the people, originating from the religious and spiritual beliefs of the Pueblo Indians, in particular the Hopi and the Zuni. It is believed that they become the spirit of the kachina, so during the kachina ceremonies and dances, the men who wear the masks and dress of these spirits are also called kachinas, the word used for the spirits they emulate.

In recent years many Native American, including the Navajo, have embraced the creation of Kachina figurines. Kachina ceremonies take place during the first half of the Hopi religious calendar from winter solstice to mid-July. There are five major ceremonies, each lasting nine days. Most of these ceremonies and dances are held in the underground kivas, the



Roadrunner with desert flora
Raku-fired ceramic

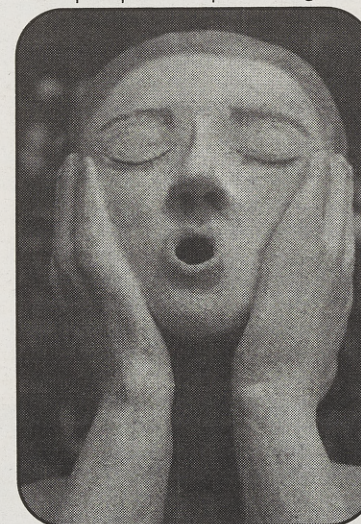
ceremonial meeting places of the pueblo Indians, where only the initiated may bare witness.

"I have also studied Mayan and Aztec art and imagery, creating masks influenced by their cul-

tures. And my growing fascination with birds, particularly local residents such as magpies, hawks and crows, has resulted in carving birds onto the masks. Folk Artisans from Guatemala hand carved these Maya Masks out of solid wood. Her artistic interpretation continues to expand, and reflect her unique elucidation she has also included figure and animal sculpture.

Jeanette Morrow's favorite quote about artwork was made by George Inness (1825-1894): "The true aim (of a work of art) is not to instruct, not to edify, but to awaken an emotion." How true to form this is with respect to her works of art, tradition and culture.

As masks most often function as a means of contact with various spirit powers, protecting



Howling Woman
Spirit masks and sculpture of
people and nature in clay

against the unknown forces of the universe, so too has Jeanette Morrow's contributions, allowing insight and an introduction to traditions that many of us have left to explore. Here is a wonderful place to start.

Jeanette Morrow is one of the artists in the current collection of over 50 that works includes original pastel paintings, photography, wood, and metal sculptures, vessels, jewelry, glass and wearable art. ▼

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Letters In the Attic

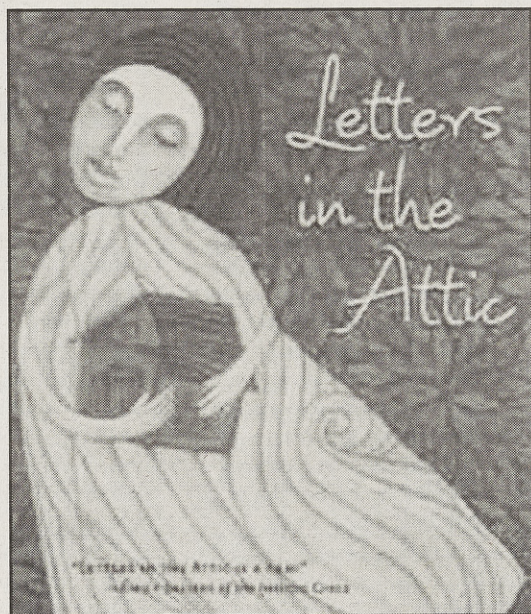


By
JENN THORNTON
MGW STAFF

Upon hearing the news that she was the unlikely victor of the 2004 Lambda Literary Award for outstanding fiction in the Children and Young Adult category for her first novel *Letters in the Attic*, a notably surprised Bonnie Shimko lingered in unexpected amazement—an understandable reaction considering one of her competitors was famed playwright, Harvey Fierstein, author of *Torch Song Trilogy*. Not bad for the 61 year-old retired schoolteacher; a reluctant novelist who describes herself as “old and shopworn.” After reading *Letters*, Shimko’s proclamation feels thoroughly suspect.

Shimko describes *Letters from the Attic* as a “mother/daughter coming-of-age/coming-out story,” inspired by her daughter Sarah, who came out as a lesbian in 1998. In an interview with *Out in the Mountains*, Shimko admits that *Letters* is “a labor of love and also an apology for acting less than kind when I heard the news. Since then, I’ve come to my senses.” Shimko credits the members of PFLAG in Burlington, Vermont for their support and “working magic” on her stilted point of view. From the struggle to understand came *Letters*; a confessional novel that emerged sweetly from a quiet space in Shimko’s searching heart.

Letters in the Attic is the story of Lizzy McCann, a perceptively clever 12 year-old who sees the world with a kind maturity curiously absent in the delusions of her imagining mother Veronica, awash in the romance of the Kennedy-Camelot years. After Manny (Lizzy’s father) announces he is divorcing the family,



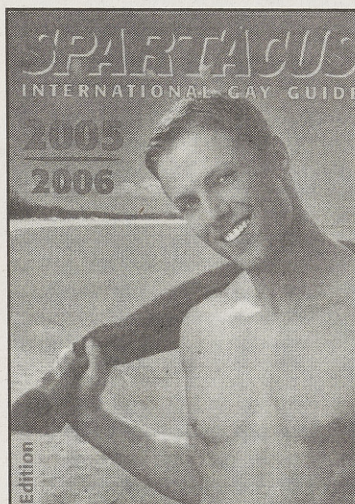
Written By: Bonnie Shimko
Academy Chicago Publishers
ISBN: 0897335112

Hardcover: 194 pages

Veronica moves Lizzy from a motel in Phoenix, Arizona to live with her newly introduced grandparents in New York. The move plunges Lizzy into a transitory world where the rites of womanhood hang heavy like an anchor from her fragile confusions. Her first bra, the arrival of her period and her desire, “a riddle without any clues,” for Eva—a Natalie Wood look-alike—compound Lizzy’s uneasiness. Her new life in New York uncovers a hive of secrets: family, sexual, and social.

Shimko doesn’t bother with clever, over-wrought sentences. Her writing is quiet and wise, like her heroine. *Letters* is void of Pollyanna sensibilities commonly associated with coming-of-age fiction, despite the appearance of cheeky town oddballs and an Atticus Finch-like grandfather. Shimko’s beautiful, encapsulating sentences remind us of the sometimes-gentle discovery that the cruel loneliness of adolescence brings. “This is when you have to believe that there are certain directions set out for just you to follow, like a dress pattern,” says a reflective Lizzy. “If you ignore them and try to put your life together yourself, you will end up wrong.” *Letters in the Attic* is a tender first effort from a formidably talented new writer, Bonnie Shimko. ▼

Books Aimed at Gay Men Prove Big Sellers

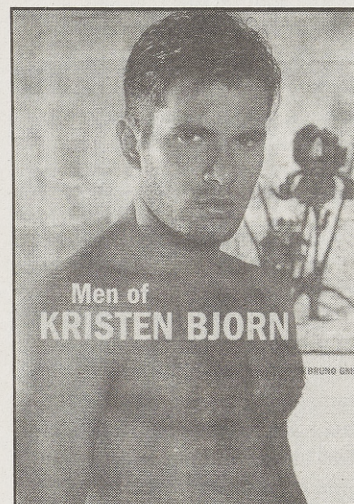


Paperback: 1272 pages
Publisher: Bruno Gmunder
Verlag Gmbh; 34th edition
ISBN: 386187671X

With the *Spartacus* in your suitcase, you will have all the latest news at your finger tips! More than 315,000 readers inform themselves about worldwide destinations, gay meeting places and country-specific information in our travel guides from the successful *Spartacus* family! Thus our *Spartacus* travel guides are the most successful guides for the gay man at all.

There’s hardly a place in the world that has some form of gay positive place or happening spot that isn’t listed in this book. Bruno Gmunder Publishing has just released this 2005-2006 edition which celebrates the 34th year of printing for this international guide. A far cry thicker than the first few printings, this guide has surpassed any other to become the premiere travel guide for gay men.

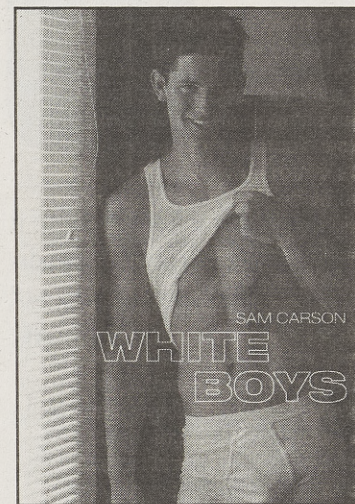
Overviews printed in several different languages for that international flair, the bulk of the book is printed in english and provides information beyond just lodging. ▼



Hardcover: 80 pages
Publisher: Bruno Gmunder
Verlag Gmbh
ISBN: 386187282X

Kristen Bjorn’s love of travel and beautiful men combine into one in his photos, creating a unique style. Latin America is his favorite destination. Here he finds masculine erotic along with exotic ambience and wonderfully powerful colors which are typical in his photos. “Men of Kristen Bjorn” is an opulent photo book, combining the hottest and most stimulating shots from Kristen Bjorn. On 120 pages the selection of international models freely displays their less permissive side.

Much like in his movies, each page of this book is carefully put together with Bjorn’s usual eye for the sensuality and physical beauty in masculine-bodied men. Featuring many models from his movies and trips around the world, the book reads like a photo-collectors version of his films. This book is a definite must have for not only Bjorn fans, but for anyone who fancies themselves a collector of male photography books. ▼



Hardcover: 80 pages
Publisher: Bruno Gmunder
Verlag Gmbh
ISBN: 3861876841

Sam Carson, a well-known Californian architect, has for many years been photographing young amateur models who have never let themselves be captured before. His specialty is “The boy next door”. He lives in San Diego and has secured himself a solid reputation as a photographer of healthy young men from California.

After the global success of “First Exposure”, his first book of photographs, Carson continues his homage to the unspoiled, innocently erotic young men in this exciting new book of portraits. Carson presents new faces and fresh youthful bodies, specially cast in a creative and sensitive light. The final cover comes off only rarely. Sam Carson’s art is original and unique in the realm of gay male.

The book, while having a number of original and captivating photos, is mostly uninspired and seems hastily put together. It still is a nice addition to the library of amateur model lovers. ▼

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Stop! Thief!

By
M. A. Ross
MGW Staff



"Littering is a form of theft; it robs someone of their opportunity to see beauty."

Unknown.

On any given Friday you might see my man John and me driving around Sacramento making food deliveries for a local organization (Breaking Barriers) that helps people with HIV/AIDS or breast cancer. On one recent Friday delivery run, it was fast approaching rush hour and we were trying to get out of mid-town with a trunk full of food deliveries.

As we made our way along 16th street to leave the down-

town area we had to stop at the traffic light before crossing J Street. As I sat there watching the cross traffic and casually looked from left to right I spotted a huge piece of garbage in the gutter across the street from Memorial auditorium. There was this sad, busted & broke-asz' truck with a big billboard on the back that read "Homosexuality Is A Sin!"

The truck also had a multitude of religious quotes painted all over to supposedly back up this rubbish statement. Also on the truck was a stunning picture of two attractive guys kissing that was partially obscured by a red circle with a line through it and a web address that read GaymarriageNO.com.

My first thought was "Which Christ cramming clown brought his zealot-mobile to town?" My second thought was "Do I have enough time to pull over, open my Leatherman™ tool and bless that truck with four flat tires?"

But it was my third thought that John and I took action on. As the light turned green, we drove by, quickly rolled down the car windows and boo-ed as loud as we could. It was all that we had time for at the moment. A small and barely significant gesture, but it still felt good for our souls. Come to find out, that the guy behind that social garbage truck, one Luke Otterstad has been "drivin' 4 Jesuz" all over Sacramento and even in some of the out lying areas like Placerville.

I read the group even had the brass you-know-whats to park their social garbage truck out in front of churches they weren't even affiliated with! I found it amusing to additionally read the people who run those churches were quite un-amused at Mr. Otterstad for parking that pile of garbage in front of these churches where children could see it.

As I dug a little deeper into Mr. Otterstad's story he claims he was doing this at the behest of his religion convictions. Honestly, I think he's doing it to pimp the "GaymarriageNO" website.

They say to keep your friends close and your enemies closer, so I went to check out the "GaymarriageNO" web site. When the site first came up it looked harmless enough, it almost looked like a bridal registry.

The site was made up of muted tones of black, white, gold and gray. There's what looks like a cropped wedding photo of a man in a tux putting a ring on the hand of a bride. The header read "Help preserve the traditional Judeo-Christian institution of marriage."

I guess no one told Mr. Otterstad that people were getting married long before Jews and Christians came along. Underneath that header, highlighted in an opaque yellow and underlined as such was "Sign the Petition Opposing Homosexual Marriage" and beneath that was the running total of people that had already signed the petition. When I last checked the number was at "2,211,791"

Although I question how many of those signatures will turn out to be phony? You know when

people pad the rolls of petitions with the names of dead people or when some impish scamps sign fake names like; Mike Hunt, Dick Cole or Hugh Janis. Also on the site are links to articles like "Ten reasons against gay marriage" by Dr.(?) James Dobson and other works by like-mindless minions who can't support their argument without the rabid dogma of their religious lifestyle.

Now here's a new twist in the age of internet information. During the writing of this, the GaymarriageNO web site has had a face lift. It looks totally different now; it comes across more like a militant political ad. The color scheme has changed from the muted gold and gray tones to contrasting blues & reds.

What little reading there is now has gone from asinine at best to confrontational at worst. There are blurbs about encouraging the distribution of anti-gay propaganda literature and reminding people to be sure to have their "talking points" down before dealing with people or media outlets.

There are a lot more pictures of the "garbage truck" and people standing next to GaymarriageNO banners hung over a freeway.

There's a lot more click-able banners with ire raising rhetoric like "The Facts: Uncovering the links between Homosexuality & Pedophilia". They even have bumper stickers you can order.

My favorite was the bumper sticker that read "Straight Pride" and showed two "circle headed" people (you know like the one's on the bathroom doors in fast food places.) holding hands. Of course there are many places to "point and click" if you wish to donate money. I choose not to donate.

These people at GaymarriageNO have a right to say what they want, but so do we. "Decent" has been a long and proud American tradition. This country would be in history's dustbin without it. "Decent" doesn't just belong to religious types nor does it always have to do with violence.

"Decent" can be small & witty as long as it's subversive. You know, like signing a phony name to a petition or a drive by booing or calling a tow truck to haul away a sad, busted & broke-asz' truck with a big billboard on the back that reads "Homosexuality Is A Sin!" ▼

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I'm Glad He's Gone

By
SAM CATALANO
MGW STAFF



One of the advantages about being an atheist is that I don't have to pretend to believe in turning the other cheek when someone attacks me. In fact, I am a huge supporter of the "Fight Back" school of American history and real politics. So, I have no problem whatsoever in stating that I am glad that the homophobic pope is dead. I was also absolutely ecstatic when the extremely homophobic Senator Pete Knight died. And I will cheer when Jerry Falwell, James Dodson, Lou Sheldon, Ray Haynes and Dennis Mountjoy all go to meet their maker (or so they believe).

If they are correct and there is a god, and she sent her only begotten son to earth to preach love, understanding and compassion, then I am sure those hate mongering bigots will spend all of infinity suffering in Hell (which works for me). Sadly, as an atheist, I believe they will just return to a bunch of atoms. Dam.

Another advantage to being an atheist is that I have no problem hating people who wish me, my family, and those I love harm. When the pope repeatedly said that I was evil and my desire to marry and care for the person I love was destroying the sacred and holy institution of marriage, I answered by not turning the other cheek. When every single Republican in the CA legislature votes "no" on even the most basic domestic partner benefit, like hospital visitation, then they are waging war on me, on my values, and on my family and my friends. And I hate them for what they stand for and for what they are trying to do to me and my family and I will fight back. This is one Jew (figuratively speaking) who is not going to the gas chambers quietly or willingly or politely. When these bigots and hypocrites die, I say, "Good riddance!" ▼

Will the Madness Ever End?

After I finish writing articles exposing the hypocrisy of President Bush and the Republicans in Congress I often think that maybe a couple weeks can go by when our leaders will not do something so insane and ridiculous that I can actually write about some positive news that is happening. Alas, the Republicans will not fulfill my wishes. So here I am, once again, writing about the absurd statements and positions that elected Republicans have committed in the last two weeks.

Last month in Atlanta, Georgia Brian Nichols allegedly grabbed a gun from a sheriff's deputy while appearing in court on rape and kidnapping charges. He then allegedly shot and killed the judge, a stenographer and a sheriff's deputy.

These murders were horrendous, so I knew it would be a matter of time until Republicans in Congress—just as in the Terri Schiavo case—started politicizing this tragedy.

Alas, Republican Senator John Cornyn from Texas was the first to take the bait when he took the Senate Floor on April 4th and shared his reasoning behind the Georgia shooting.

"I don't know if there is a cause-and-effect connection but we have seen some recent episodes of courthouse violence in this country," Senator Cornyn said. "Certainly nothing new, but we seem to have run through a spate of courthouse violence recently that's been on the news and I wonder whether there may be some connection between the perception in some quarters on some occasions where judges are making political decisions yet are unaccountable to the public,

that it builds up and builds up and builds up to the point where some people engage in—engage in violence." So much for the party of personal responsibility.

Not be to outdone, Republican Congressman Tom DeLay took time off from accepting trips paid for by Russian business interests to bash judges who decided to follow Mr. Schiavo's decision to withdraw life-support from his wife just as Tom DeLay withdrew life support from his own father when his father lied in a coma near death.

"Our next step, whatever it is, must be more than rhetoric," Mr. DeLay said in remarks to the Judeo-Christian Council for Constitutional Restoration's meeting titled "Confronting the Judicial War on Faith." "I believe the judicial branch of government has overstepped its authority on countless occasions, overturning and, in some cases, ignoring the legitimate will of the people."

Strange that Mr. DeLay did not share these thoughts of ignoring the will of the people when Al Gore received more votes for President than George Bush did in the 2000 election, but the Supreme Court awarded the Presidency to George Bush anyway. Perhaps he was too busy bullying his Republican Congressional colleagues in order to avoid ethics violations to read polls showing that an overwhelming majority of Americans were horrified that Congress and the President would politicize the death of a woman and strip medical decision-making authority from her husband and give it to the federal government.

I hope that Senator Cornyn and Congressman DeLay would sit

By
DANIEL ROTH
STONEWALL
DEMOCRATIC
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down in a high school government class and revisit the history of the American Constitution. The Founders, for better or for worse, granted the judiciary branch broad authority on the Constitutionality of laws passed by Congress and signed by the President. They knew that we needed a branch of government that could not be bought and bullied by special interests like the American Taliban has purchased Mr. DeLay and Mr. Cornyn for ten pieces of silver.

Senator Cornyn, Congressman DeLay, and the Republican leadership in Congress have declared an unholy war on America's judicial branch, and the implications are trickling down to our own backyard. This February Sacramento Superior Court Judge Loren E. McMaster upheld his Constitutional oath and upheld the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibility Act. Following Mr. DeLay and Mr. Cornyn's call to action, the so-called "Campaign for Children and Families" have brought the harassment of law-abiding judges to our own backyard. They took out recall papers against Justice McMaster, and now want to take \$2.5 million out of the Sheriff's Department and Fire Protection in order to fund their judicial witch-hunt.

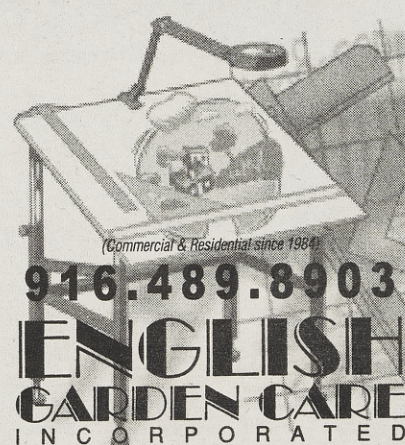
I stopped believing in the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy a long time ago, and it is time that Senator Cornyn, Congressman DeLay, and the rest of their cronies leave the magical fantasy land of Washington DC and take a ride on the reality express. Brian

Nichols did not kill the judge in Atlanta because judges throughout the United States have protected the rights of the minority from the tyranny of the majority by upholding the rights of racial minorities to vote, the right for women to make medical decisions about their own bodies, and the rights of Americans to take responsibilities for their own partners—regardless of their sex.

I fear what the American Taliban's tools in Congress have up their sleeve as a way to intimidate our judicial branch. Whether Mr. DeLay again pushes legislation stripping courts of their ability to take up civil rights cases or go to the extreme and begin impeachment proceedings against federal judges whose only crime was doing their job and upholding the Constitution, it is all of Americans who will lose. The attention given to one case about one woman in Florida who the American Taliban decided to make their trial balloon to show how much control they actually have over our Congress and President shows we need to protect the judiciary so they can rule fairly and without reciprocity when cases involving civil rights for gay and lesbian couples hit our court system.

I hope that these statements are the final travesty of the American Taliban's hold on our elected officials. Maybe in the next two weeks Tom Delay, John Cornyn, George Bush, and the other Republicans will spend time focusing on fixing problems that they have created like an ever-expanding national debt or a Medicare system that is on the verge of collapse. But I think the chances of that happening are as non-existent as the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy all deciding to perform a strip tease in the Lincoln Bedroom. ▼

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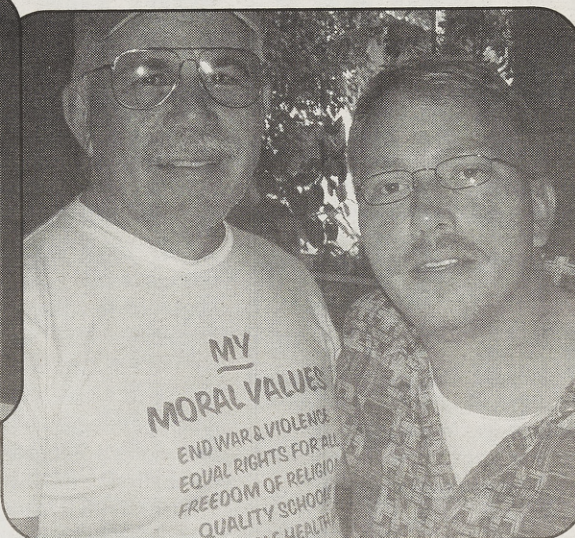
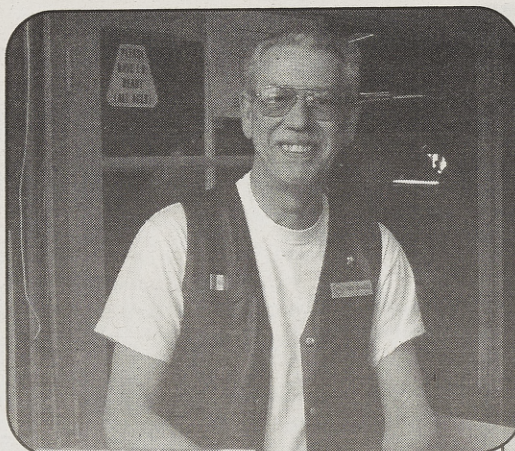
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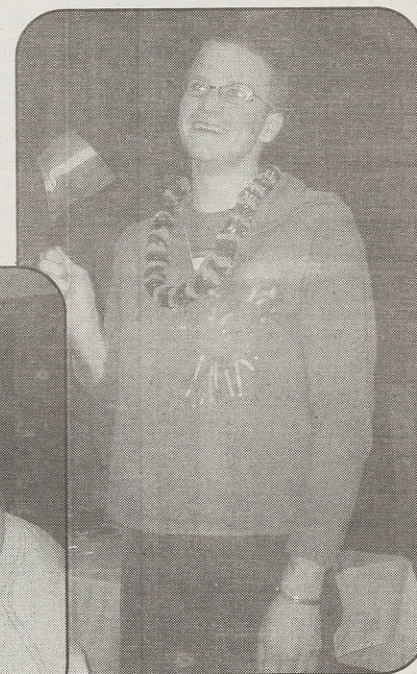
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"Hear-Hear" Training Deaf Pets

BY
BARRY EATON
MGW GUEST
WRITER



DEAF BUT NOT DUMB

Lady was born on a farm, one of five puppies, all destined to work sheep, but the breeder noticed that something wasn't quite right with one of the pups. She was slow to respond when somebody came into the kennel or at meal times. She also seemed surprised when she woke up to find that the other puppies were playing and she was the only one that had been asleep. The breeder's suspicions were confirmed when a few simple tests determined that Lady was deaf.

As the breeders are friends of ours, they tried a little emotional blackmail. "If we can't find her a good home, we'll have to put her to sleep." It worked, as on 14 July 1988, we collected Lady and brought her home.

WHERE TO START?

I had grand ideas about training Lady to a good pet dog standard of obedience despite her disability, but where do I start? I had been to dog clubs before with my other dogs and the only method of training I knew was the hands-on, squish, squash, push-me, pull-you methods, so that was the method I started to use. These training sessions were painful experiences for me, as Lady was a particularly mouthy puppy and she was more interested in chewing bits off my fingers than learning. It then dawned on me that I wasn't actually teaching her anything. As she couldn't hear, I couldn't reinforce the 'sit' position with a verbal command, and I was too busy pushing her into position, I couldn't reinforce it with a hand signal.

DOGGIE DELINQUENCY

I was now at a point where, I suspect, many owners of deaf dogs arrive. HELP!! The dream of having an obedient deaf dog was turning into a nightmare. My sweet, innocent, cuddly puppy was turning into a doggie delinquent. Where do I go for help? The vet? The local dog club?

Perhaps the book shops or the library had a book on the subject. But no. Everybody I spoke to told me to have Lady put to sleep. "You can't train a deaf dog", I was told, and like many deaf dog owners, I did consider having her put to sleep, as well as rehoming her or taking her back to the breeder. But I wasn't prepared to give up yet. If only I could find a hands-free method of training.

TRAINING BY ACCIDENT

Then, purely by chance, I watched a puppy training video by Dr Ian Dunbar. He was getting a puppy to sit, lie down, to come to him, and to walk by his side without a lead, all by using a food treat, and not one finger came into contact with the puppy. This had to be worth trying. So I held a food treat slightly over Lady's nose and moved it back towards her eyes. As her head went up looking at the treat, her rump went down and she was sitting. Eureka! Then by moving the treat away from her, level with her nose, she stood, and by placing the treat on the floor between her paws, she laid down. At last, I was seeing some progress. In a short space of time, Lady was following my hand with the treat into the three positions of sit, down and stand. It didn't take too much imagination to convert the

hand movements into hand signals and before too long, I could dispense with the food lure and just use a hand signal.

ATTENTION IN THE BACK

Probably the most important lesson I learned during the initial few months of training was that I must be able to get, and keep, Lady's attention. During our frequent training sessions I would use food treats or toys to get her attention and then use them to reward her when she did something right. When owners of deaf dogs ask my advice or come to me for training, the first piece of advice I give them is to find something, ideally a number of things, the dog really, really likes.

PROGRESS - AT LAST

I was now on a roll; I had made some progress. Hand signals, body posture and facial expression all played a part in communicating with Lady. I developed clear, simple and exaggerated hand signals that she could see from a distance. When she got something right, I would say, 'good dog' with real feeling and my face would light up. Eventually she learned that a smile meant I was pleased with her. Equally, she learned that a scowl meant she was doing something wrong.

COME HERE - PLEASE!!

One of the most important things probably every dog owner wants from their dog, is for it to

come back when called. I made the mistake of letting Lady off-lead without having trained her to come back to me. I thought she would want to stay with me because I'm a nice guy - honest! I was wrong. Anything was more interesting than I was. Having found out that Lady likes to chase horses, birds, falling leaves, in fact anything that moves (after all, she is a Border Collie), I had to go back to the drawing board and work out a training program for a 'recall'. Using Lady's obsession with a ball, I taught her to pay attention to me. I then taught her a recall signal. When she obeyed the recall signal, she was rewarded with a play with the ball. Now on our walks, Lady is off-lead most of the time, but only in safe areas.

HELP IS AT HAND

Training a deaf dog is not easy. However, due to my experiences with Lady, I have been able to help many other owners, and their deaf dogs, through my training book, Hear, Hear! and through one-to-one training. It's a great shame there are deaf puppies at all, but unless deafness can be totally eradicated from blood lines, there will always be people who are willing to give deaf dogs a chance of a normal life. Those people and their dogs need help, but there isn't lot of it about. Instead of turning our backs on the problem, let's get to grips with it and offer positive help.

NOT AN EASY ROAD

It is possible to train a deaf dog given the right environment, the right type of owner and using the right training methods. But it's not easy. There are no short cuts, quick fixes or magic formulae, but ultimately it is exceedingly rewarding. ▼

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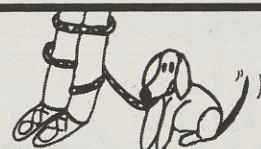
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KANSAS VOTERS BAN GAYS FROM MARRYING

Kansas became the 18th state to place a ban on same-sex marriage into the text of its constitution, as 70 percent of the electorate voted in favor of the amendment at a school board election. Civil rights activists were disappointed, but not surprised, as Kansas followed in the path of "red states" such as Nebraska, Oklahoma, Georgia, Louisiana and others. Turnout was in the range of 38 percent, which was relatively high for a special election. "The harm done to thousands of Kansas families is incalculable," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "As voters come to understand the real consequences of this amendment, we hope they understand how wrong this amendment is." ▼

ACLU TAKES ON SCHOOLS OVER PROGAY T-SHIRTS

The American Civil Liberties Union said that high schools in Missouri and Ohio were violating students' First Amendment rights by banning T-shirts that express the students' support of gay rights. The ACLU filed a lawsuit against the school in Missouri and issued a warning to the Ohio school. In both schools, administrators routinely allowed students to wear shirts expressing other

messages, including endorsements of the Bush and Kerry presidential campaigns, students' views on abortion and religious messages, according to the ACLU. ▼

COACH SETTLES TEXAS BIAS CASE

A small Texas school district has settled with a basketball coach it tried to fire because she was gay, the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) announced. During her five years as coach of the Lady Wildcats in the Bloomburg Independent School District, Merry Stephens was named "Coach of the Year" three years. After leading the Wildcats to district, regional and semi-state championships, Wal-Mart honored her as a "Teacher of the Year" in 2004. ▼

GAY TV CHANNEL EXPANDS IN U.S.

A gay television network launched nearly two years ago, called "here!", is now available to 40 million U.S. households, the company reported. Thanks to recent deals with Comcast and Cox, two of the largest cable companies in the United States, here! will be offered as part of their on-demand digital cable packages. The company, described on its Web site as a "precedent-setting television destination" for gay and lesbian viewers, was the first TV network in

the United States to specifically target the LGBT community with exclusively gay programming. "Our mission has always been to offer a variety of programming that will appeal to the diverse gay and lesbian population. We are committed to developing and creating original material that is authentic, positive and entertaining," said here! CEO and founder Paul Colichman, in a prepared statement. ▼

BISHOP DENIES SAYING JESUS POSSIBLY GAY

The first openly gay Episcopal bishop says he is being falsely accused of suggesting that Jesus might have been homosexual. "I can assure you with absolute certainty that was not my implication, and certainly not anything I ever said," Bishop V. Gene Robinson told the New Hampshire Union Leader. He said he is "being flooded with angry messages" because of Web log comments about his comments at a Feb. 13 forum on sexual issues at Christ Church in Hamilton, Mass. Robinson said he was making the point that the nuclear family is a relatively new idea and that, even for his time, Jesus apparently led a nontraditional life. ▼

GAY GOP GROUP BACKS SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN

Demanding a Social Security reform plan similar to President Bush's privatization proposal, the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) signed an open letter to the U.S. Congress as part of a conservative coalition that includes a group criticized for anti-gay attacks on the AARP. The March

31 letter asked Congress to support a proposal introduced by Sen. John Sununu and Rep. Paul Ryan to introduce private accounts to Social Security. The letter features LCR's logo next to USA Next's logo. In addition, LCR Executive Director Patrick Guerrero's signature appears adjacent to USA Next President Charlie Jarvis' signature. ▼

GAYS MOBILIZE AGAINST METH ADDICTION

It's a Friday evening, traditional kickoff time for the party scene in New York's gay community, but the 75 men packed into a small room at a gay health center aren't in a partying mood. Through a humbling 12-step program modeled after Alcoholics Anonymous, they are battling to kick their addiction to methamphetamine, and in doing so escape an epidemic that is roiling urban gay communities nationwide with disease, despair, embarrassment and anger. Meth is an equal-opportunity menace—many thousands of men and women, gay and straight, have fallen prey to it in rural villages, placid suburbs and city slums. But gay leaders in New York, California and elsewhere bluntly acknowledge that their communities have distinctive problems with the drug, and an unavoidable responsibility to combat it. ▼

FIJI IMPRISONS TOURIST FOR HAVING GAY SEX

A retired Australian university lecturer was sentenced to two years

in prison for having gay sex with a local man in Fiji where such acts are outlawed, a newspaper reported. Thomas Maxwell McCoskar, 55, from Victoria state, told magistrate Syed Muhktar Shah he did not know it was illegal in Fiji to engage in sex with Dharendra Nandan, 23, according to the report in The Fiji Times. Both were jailed for two years after admitting charges of "committing an unnatural offense" and "indecent behavior". They faced a maximum 14-year sentence after admitting to engaging in sex and taking photographs of themselves naked between March 24 and April 3. McCoskar said he had just retired and had traveled to Fiji for "some fun." The magistrate described their behavior as "something so disgusting that it would make any decent person vomit." ▼

TRIAL BEGINS FOR ACCUSED ATLANTA GAY CLUB BOMBER

Jury selection began in the case of suspected bomber and long-time fugitive Eric Rudolph in Alabama. Rudolph faces 23 counts involving four bombings. Four people were injured when a pipe bomb went off near the doorway of Otherside Lounge in February 21, 1997. ▼

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Signature _____

3 the category...

- ☐ Announcements ☐ Men Seeking Men
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5 please print ad here 10 word minimum.

Free Headline (2-3 words): _____

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2 the money...

Business Directory listings.....	\$ 15
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4 business directory

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Policies
• Include full name, address & daytime phone number on coupon. MGW will not accept your ad without phone numbers for verification. This information will be kept strictly confidential. No phone orders. No Cash Refunds, \$25 will be charged for bounced checks. \$10 service charge assessed on refunds for cancelled ads. • All ads must be prepaid. No ads containing explicit sexual references or crude language will be accepted. We reserve the right to abbreviate, edit, categorize, or refuse any ad. Do not write your ad in all capital letters. • Business Directory Listings are \$15 per issue. No discounts will apply. Listing may include only: business name, address and phone number.

Deadlines
• 1st issue of the month: 7 calendar days before
• 15th issue of the month: 7 calendar days before.

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Fax: 916.441.6422
info@mgwnews.com

NorCal AIDS CHALLENGE



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You're invited to join us on a journey to raise awareness and funds for the fight against HIV and AIDS in the inland northern California region. Whether you're a sponsor, cyclist, crew member, volunteer, or making a pledge, you'll be making a difference.

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3104 O ST., PMB 357, 484-5646

SAC. COUNTY DHHS/HEALTH EDUCATION
UNIT, HIV HOTLINE: 446-2694

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CAPITAL CITY HOOPSTERS: GAYBASKET-
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COMMITTEE: 736-2722

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KPBOXER@YAHOO.COM

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FRONTRUNNERS.ORG

GAY FATHERS OF SACRAMENTO: 457-1812

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS: GLS_MOTHER-
LODE@YAHOO.COM

LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT: 728-1261,
LAMBDALEP@AOL.COM

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS:

WWW.LCRSAC.COM

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES OF SAC.:
OAS_NEWS@HOTMAIL.COM

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658-0892

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551-3832

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SAC. AREA WOMEN'S COMMUNITY NETWORK:
451-8034, SACWN.COM

SACRAMENTO ARTS & GAMES ASSOCIATION:
451-8663

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GEOCITIES.COM/WESTHOLLYWOOD/PARK/
3103

SAC. VALLEY POZABILITIES: 564-1790,
SACRAMENTOVALLEYPOZABILITIES@YAHOO.
COM

SEXUAL COMPULSIVES ANONYMOUS:
712-0529, SCA-RECOVERY.ORG

SISTERS OF SCOTA WOMEN'S MOTORCYCLE
CLUB: 725-9467

VALLEY KNIGHTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB:
455-6540

AUCTION

THE AUCTION HOUSE: 10076 MILLS
STATION ROAD, 361-8491

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441-4410

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CAPITOL CITY EUROPEAN: 1725 33RD ST.,
452-5811

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2413 J ST., 443-6323

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448-0706

CLUB 21: 1119 21ST STREET, 443-1537

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565-2500

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916-732-5310

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THE BEAD FETISH: 1725 L ST., 447-7979

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L.L.A.C.E.: (GLBT LIBRARY & ARCHIVES):
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CA.JOB JOURNAL
2033 HOWE AVE., #100, 925-0800

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DR. CAMERON YEE: 6407 RIVERSIDE
BLVD., 395-0673

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ANIMAL HOUSECALL: DR. NANCY WEAGLY,
456-0967

CLIP SHOP: 2631 A RIVERSIDE BLVD.,
447-0393

FUR PEOPLE PET SITTING: 457-1655

HAPPY TAILS PETS: 556-1155

LABRADOR RETRIEVER RESCUE:
209-951-3697, LABRESCUE.ORG

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COOK REALTY: CHARON JENNER,
4305 FREEPORT BLVD, 763-1781

PFINGST REALTY: 9978 FOLSOM BLVD.,
362-1166

MARK WHISLER, BROKER: WHISLER LAND
CO., 446-6666

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717-2188

RESTAURANTS

CAFÉ MELANGE: 2700 24TH STREET,
451-2312

DOS COYOTES BORDER CAFÉ: 1735 ARDEN
WAY, 927-0377

GREEK VILLAGE INN: 65 UNIVERSITY AVE.,
922-6334

HANGAR 17 BAR & GRILL:
1630 S STREET, 447-1717

SAC. BREW PUB: TOWN & COUNTRY
VILLAGE, 485-4677

SACRAMENTO INFO

SAC. POLICE DEPT.: SACPD.ORG

SAC. MAPS: CITYMAPS.SACTO.ORG

SHELTERS

WIND CENTER FOR HOMELESS TEENS:
300 AHERN ST., 443-1386

SIGNS

SIGN-A-RAMA: 3017 ARDEN WAY,
564-4299

THEATER

LAMBDA PLAYERS, 444-8229
2427 17TH ST., LAMBDAPLAYERS.COM

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418 ALHAMBRA BLVD., 443-7171

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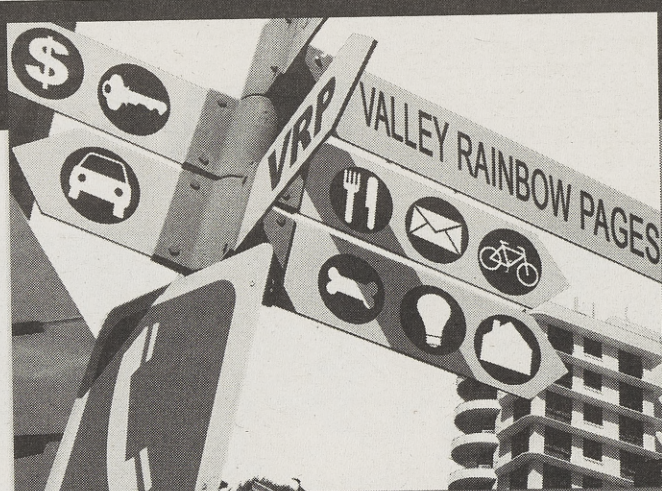
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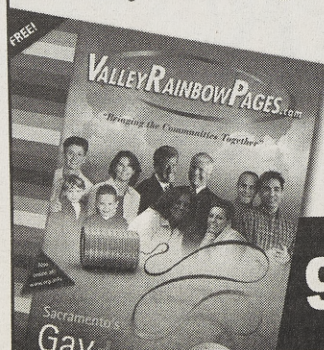
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15 FRIDAY

JOHNNY JOHNSON, Roxy's Bar & Lounge at the Eldorado Casino, Runs through the 16th, All sets begin at 8:30pm, 1-800-648-5966, eldoradoreno.com

KITTY CITY: A FELINE BOOK OF HOURS/ BOOK DISCUSSION, Judy Chicago, Author, Discussion from 4:00-5:30 p.m. followed by a reception from 7-10pm, Discussion at Varsity Theater, reception at John Nattsoulas Gallery (530) 297-1900, www.ycvb.com

NICK LONDON PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH... PARAMOUNT ON PARADE, Towe Auto Museum's Classic Movie Series, Movie Starts at 7pm, Entrance is \$8, For more information call Brian Herlihy at (916) 442-6802, www.toweautomuseum.org

16 SATURDAY

MOVIE NIGHT, Dykes Out Together Potluck begins at 5:00 p.m. show time at 6:00pm, Call (916) 726-7664 for more details

FLOGGING AND BONDAGE DEMONSTRATION, Mr. Bolt Leather, 8pm, the Bolt, 2560 Boxwood, Sacramento, benefits Breaking Barriers and Mr. Bolt Leatehr Travel Fund

PICNIC DAY, The University of California, Davis invites you to take part in picnic day. This event starts at 9 a.m. For more information, please contact the Yolo County Visitors Bureau at (530) 297-1900, www.ycvb.com

17 SUNDAY

MOVIE MATINEE, Greater Sacramento Area Couples, 1pm, the Market Place at Ardent, for more information call (916) 723-8644, www.sacramentosamesexcouple.com

SWING STYLE JAZZ WITH STOMPY JONES Library Jazz Concert Series, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Sacramento's Central Library, For more information call the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920

18 MONDAY

ASIAN PACIFIC CULTURE WEEK, UC Davis Host this annual event through the 22nd. The events start at noon in the UC Davis Quad. For more information please contact the Yolo County Visitors Bureau at (530) 297-900, www.ycvb.com

19 TUESDAY

JAPANESE DANCE AND MUSIC, This family event starts at 7:00 p.m. and admission is free, Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 7340 24th Street Bypass, (916) 264-2920

CONFESSIONS OF A MUSLIM DISSIDENT: WHY I FIGHT FOR WOMEN, JEWS, GAYS... AND ALLAH Best-selling author Irshad Manji speaks at the San Francisco Lesbian Bay Bisexual Transgender Community Center from 12pm-2pm the cost, \$10 proceeds will benefit the SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, (415) 865-5520

20 WEDNESDAY

"OUTLOOK" This is a video magazine that airs in Sacramento the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 p.m. outlookvideo.org

21 THURSDAY

"CLOSER THAN EVER", The Studio Theater, Runs Thursday through Sunday until May 29th, Ticket prices are \$17-\$19, 1028 R Street, 446-2668, www.thestudiotheater.net

PATTON LEATHA, Roxy's Bar & Lounge at the Eldorado Casino, Runs through the 23rd, All sets begin at 8:30 p.m. For show times and information call 1-800-648-5966, eldoradoreno.com

SACRAMENTO CORONATION, C.G.N.I.E. 50% of new proceeds benefit the Capital City Aids Fund, Events kick off at 7p.m. and continue all weekend \$50 for all events all weekend long Starts at Mercantile Saloon and continues from there, For more information please check out, CGNIE.com

2005 SHRINE CIRCUS, Ben Ali Shrine This event runs through the 24th Thurs. 7pm; Fri. 7:30pm; Sat 11am, 3pm, 7:30pm; Sun 11am, 2:30 pm \$12 (Children 2 and under are free) Thursday Show is Half-price, Paradise Island, Amusement Park, Under The Big Top, tickets.com or call (916) 766-2277

22 FRIDAY

"DON'T LET GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT: An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller." 7pm, 451-7191

23 SATURDAY

DRAGON MULTICULTURAL ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIRE, Proceeds benefit Asian Pacific Community Counseling, Inc., 10am-3pm, Sacramento Elks Lodge #6 6446 Riverside Blvd., 383-6783

MORNING HIKE AT DEER CREEK HILLS Gay & Lesbian Sierrans, 393-4094

24 SUNDAY

FAIRY FALLS DAY HIKE Gay & Lesbian Sierrans, 889-8652

25 MONDAY

PREPARING FOR DISASTERS- AGENCY EMERGENCY PLANNING, Collaborating Agencies responding to Disasters (CARD), 3pm-5pm, Free, 11780 San Pablo Avenue, Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, (925) 313-6744 or email cmcqueen@hsd.co.contra costa.ca.us

28 THURSDAY

NATHAN OWENS, Roxy's Bar & lounge at the Eldorado Casino, Runs through the 30th, All sets begin at 8:30 p.m. For show times and information call 1-800-648-5966, eldoradoreno.com

30 SATURDAY

GERANIUM FESTIVAL, Carmichael Geranium Society, 10am-3pm, Free,

Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Avenue For more information call Nancy Blair (916) 332-1493 or the Carmichael Recreation and Park District (916) 485-5322

1 SUNDAY

BIKE TRAIL RIDE TO FOLSOM LAKE, 10am Gay & Lesbian Sierrans, 393-4094

6 FRIDAY

WHOLE EARTH FESTIVAL, Yolo County Visitors Bureau, This event runs through the 8th, For more information call the Yolo County Visitors Bureau at (530) 297-1900, www.ycvb.com

7 SATURDAY

COFFEE OUT AT THE WEATHERSTONE, GSAC 7pm, Weatherstone 812 21st, sacramentosamesexcouple.com

ONGOING MONTHLY BRUNCH, Dykes Out Together, First Saturday of every month at 10am, The cost is around \$10 for an entrée and drink., Andi's Café located on Bradshaw Road tana@lanset.com

SELL & SWAP, Towe Auto Museum First Saturday of each month, 10am-3pm, Towe Auto Museum, 2200 Front Street, Sacramento, CA 95818 (916) 442-6802

VICTORIAN TEA, A benefit to continue restoration on the Georgia Fisher monument, 3:00-5:00 p.m. the cost is \$15.00 per person, prepaid reservations only, must be made by May 1, 2005, Historic Sacramento City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway Sacramento, 442-5662

9 MONDAY

LA RAZA CULTURE DAYS, Yolo County Visitors Bureau, This event continues through the 13th, This event begins in the Quad of the UC Davis campus, (530) 297-1500, www.ycvb.com

11 WEDNESDAY

DOT PLANNING MEETING, 6:30pm call (916) 971-9337 for details

14 SATURDAY

BBQ AND GENERAL MEETING, GSAC 7pm, sacramentosamesexcouple.com

COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET, Proceeds from sales are strictly for the benefit of each Neighborhood Association or Non-Profit Organization, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Marshall Park (Hart Senior Center), 915 27th Street, 808-8193

FEATS OF CLAY, 18th annual juried competition of ceramics, Depart from Sacramento at 9am, Advance reservations are required for all tours Gladding McBean Terra Cotta Factory, call (916) 971-9337

ART SHOWS

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, Pandora's Box: The Sculpture of George Herms, May 27- August 14; Material Differences, Art and Identity in Africa, through June 19; Kunisada: Bold Master of Japanese Prints, through June 19; White Gold: The Kathy and Ron Gillmeister Collection of Early Meissen Porcelain, April 22-through Spring 2006, 216 O Street (916) 264-5423, www.crockerart-museum.org

EXPLODING HEAD GALLERY, "Three Voices" April 7-30, 942 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 442-8424, exploding@sbcglobal.net

HANG ART, 556 & 567 Sutter Street San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 434-4264, www.hangart.com

LEGION OF HONOR, Windows Facing East: The Japanese Influence on European and American Prints Through April 30, 100 34th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94121, (415) 750-3614, www.legionofhonor.org

20TH STREET ART, Ceramics by Sy Schwartz, through May 7, 911 20th Street Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 930-0500, www.20art.net

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY ART MUSEUM & PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE Matrix 216: Slater Bradley The Year of the Doppelganger, April 24-June 26, 625 Durant Avenue #2250, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 642-0808 www.bampfa.berkeley.edu

VIEW POINT GALLERY, The Sacramento Valley Photographic Art Center 2005 Member' Exhibit, Through May 7 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., Sac, CA 95814, (916) 441-2341, www.view-pointgallery.org

CALENDAR@MGWNEWS.COM

THEATRE

LAMBDA PLAYERS, 2427 17th St., 444-8229, lambdaplayers.com, \$13-\$15, "Just Us Girls" thru Apr. 3; "Reader's Theatre" Apr. 7, 8, 9; "Southern Baptist Sissies" Apr. 15-May 22, "Last Sunday in June" Jun. 3-July 3, "Hot Summer Nights Program" Jul 8-Aug. 27

STUDIO THEATRE, 1028 R St., 446.2668, studiotheatre.net, \$17-\$19, "Closer Than Ever", Apr. 7-May 29

CALIFORNIA MUSICAL THEATRE, Music Circus Summer Season, Beauty and the Beast, July 5-17; West Side Story, July 19-24; Once on this Island, August 2-17; Cabaret, August 9-14; Grease, August 16-21; The King and I August 23-28, 1510 J Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 446-5880, www.californiamusicaltheatre.com

THE NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER, Whoop-Dee-Doo! May 21-June 25, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Lower Lobby, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 861-4914, UC Davis theatre & Dance Dept., A Dream Inside Another May 13-15 and 18-21, Mondavi Center Studio Theatre, (530) 754-Arts

WOODLAND OPERA HOUSE THEATRE COMPANY, Once Upon a Mattress, April 8- May 1; Picnic, May 27- June 19; Nadine Salontites: The Life & Music of Kate Smith, May 8; Cheryl Sandoval recital, May 15; Barefoot in the Park, August 26-September 18; She Loves Me, October 28-November 20, 340 Second Street PO Box 1425 Woodland, CA 95776 (530) 666-9617, www.wohtheatre.org

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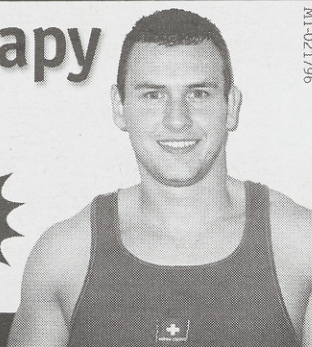
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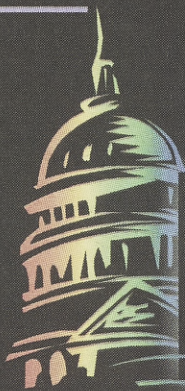
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Sacramento

2005

June 11 2005

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